



# Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

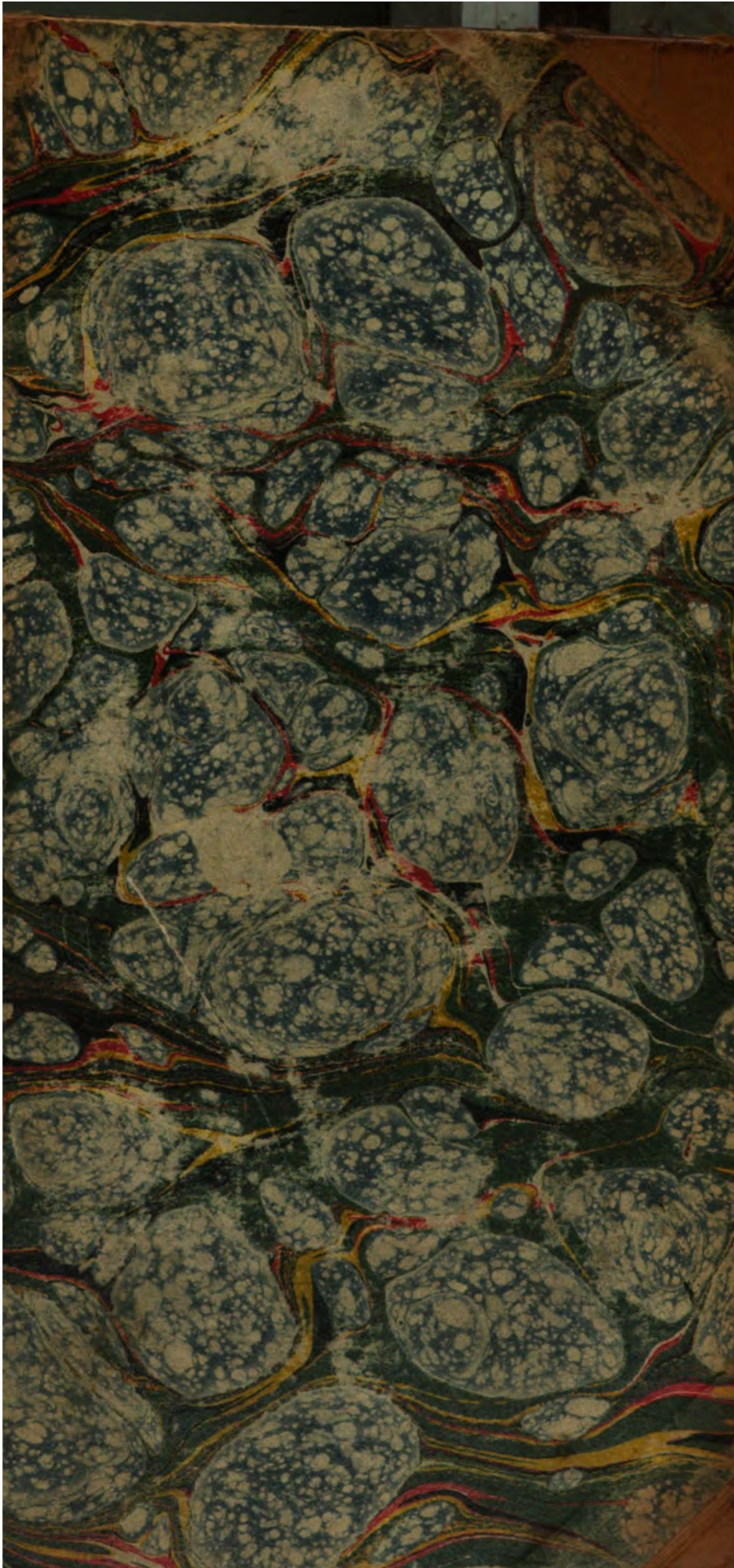
This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

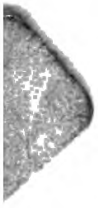
For more information see:

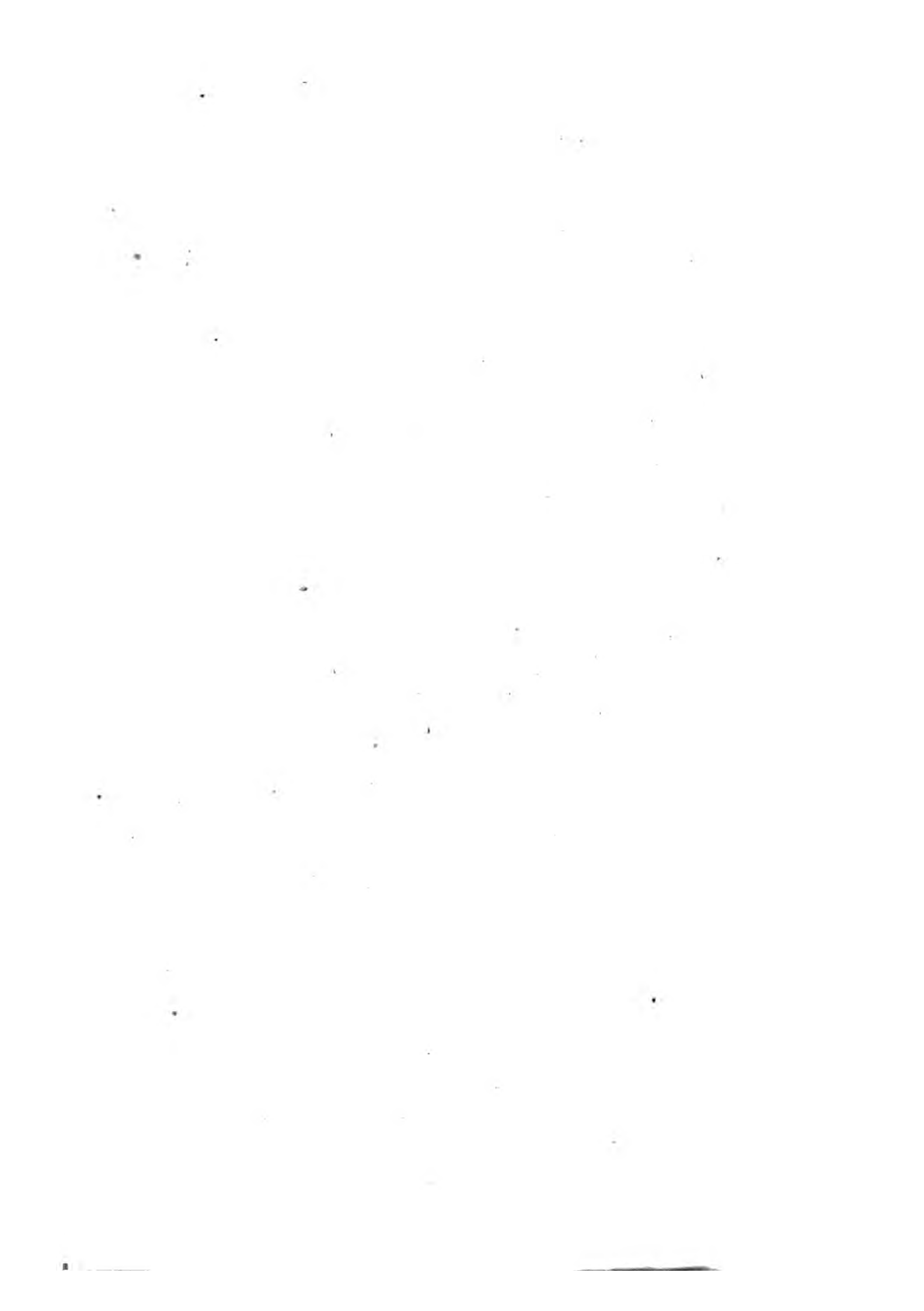
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>

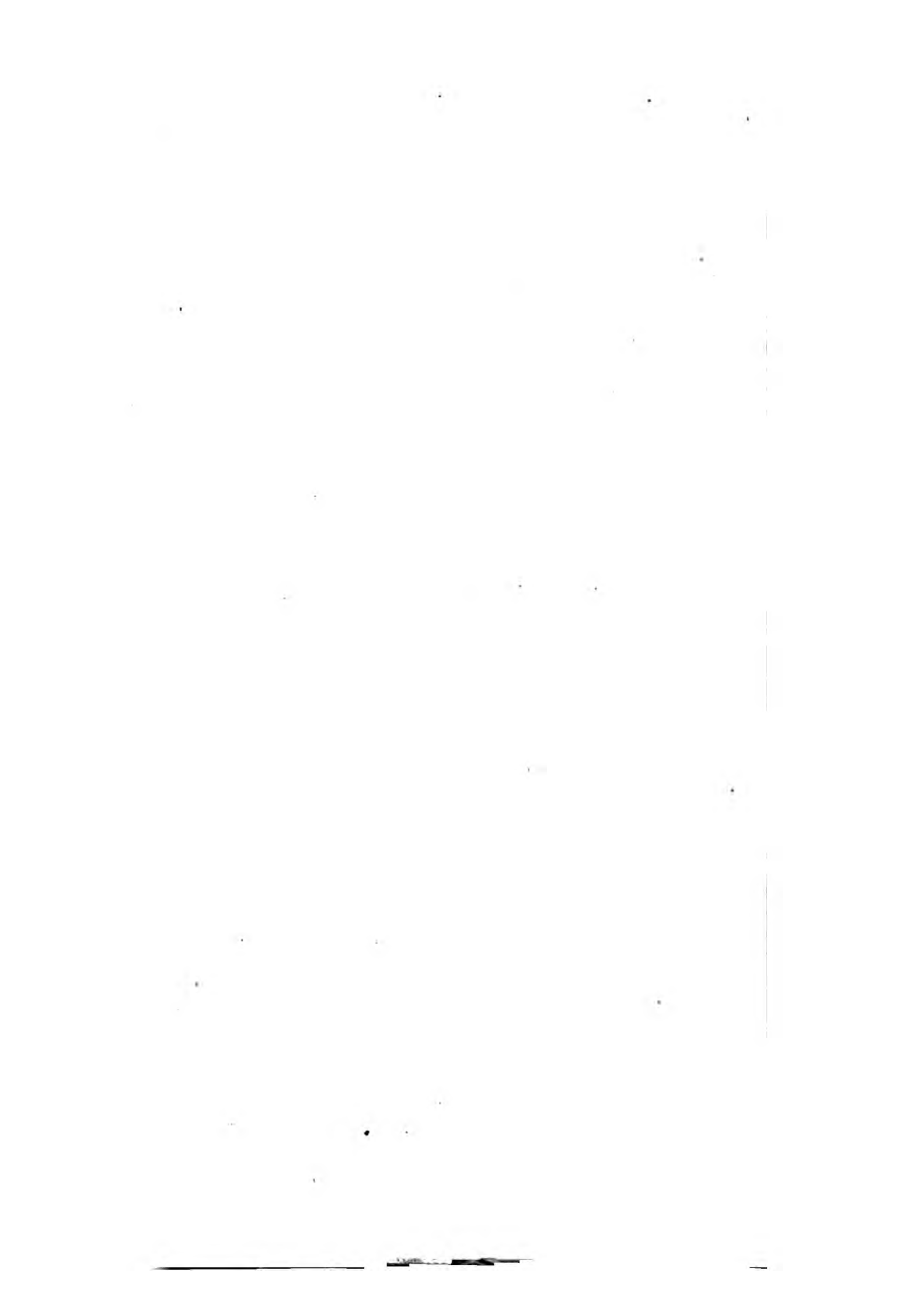


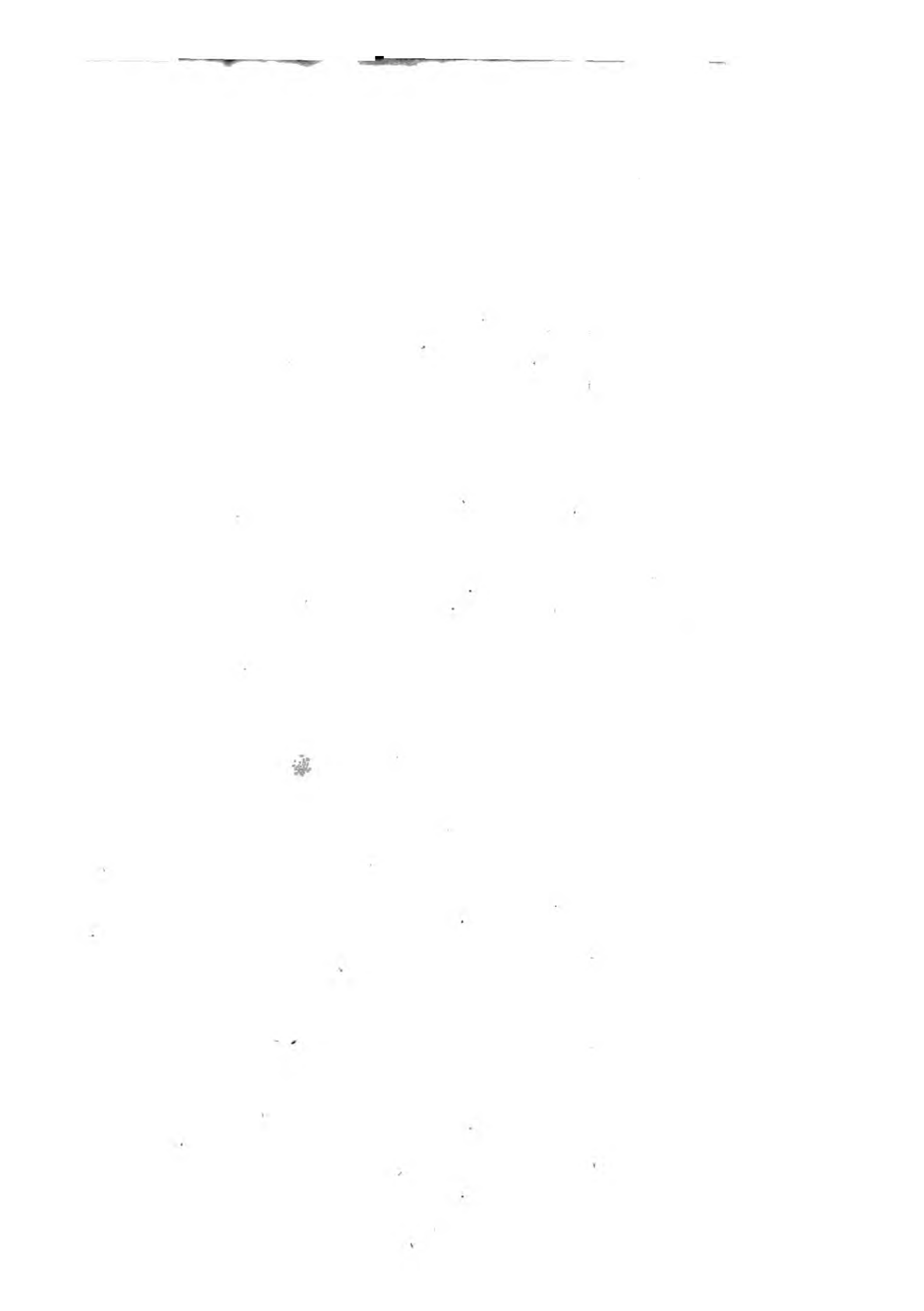
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) licence.

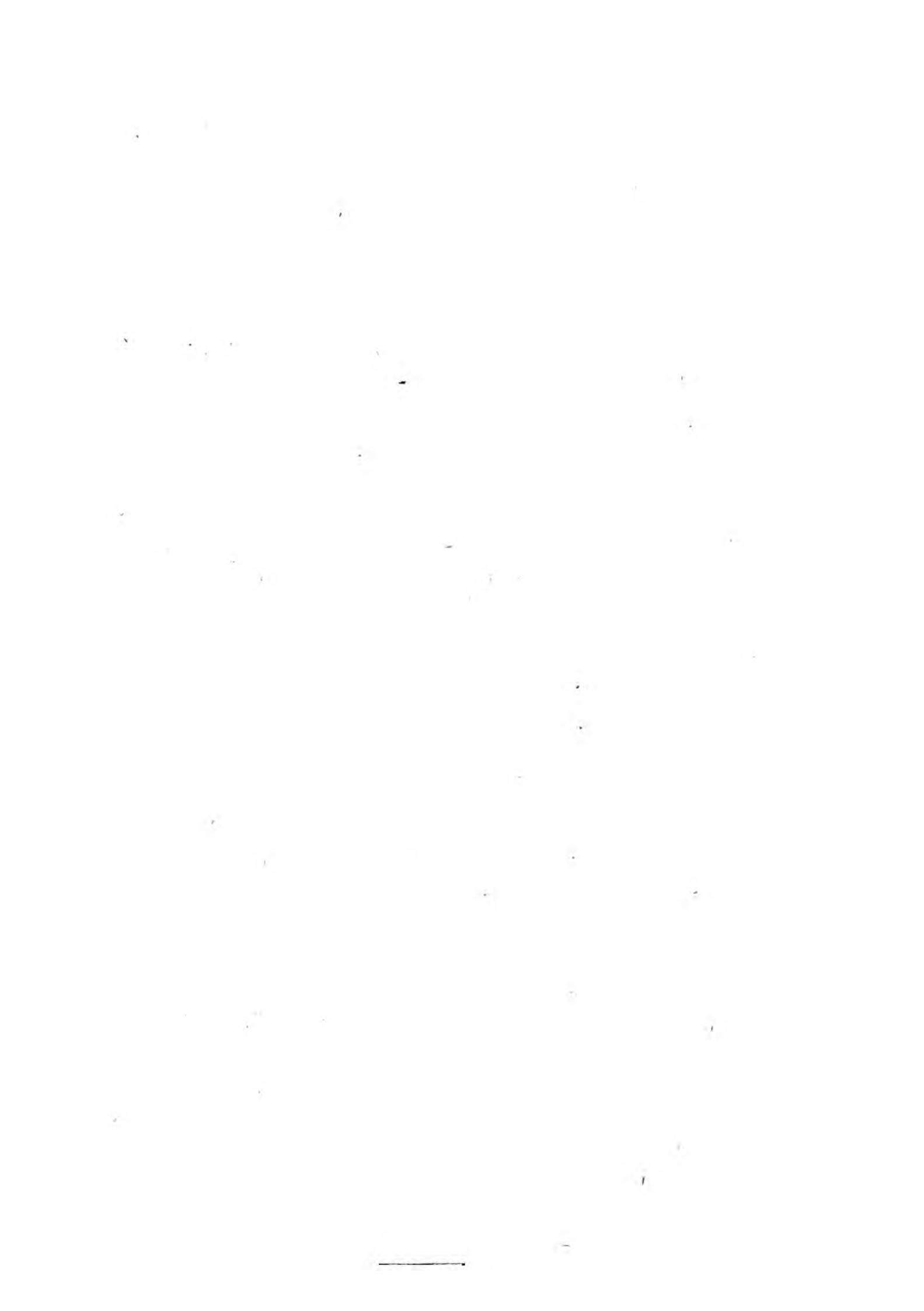












---

THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

---





THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

---

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

---

VOLUME FIFTH.

*“ Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.”*  
CICERO de Orat. lib. ii.

---

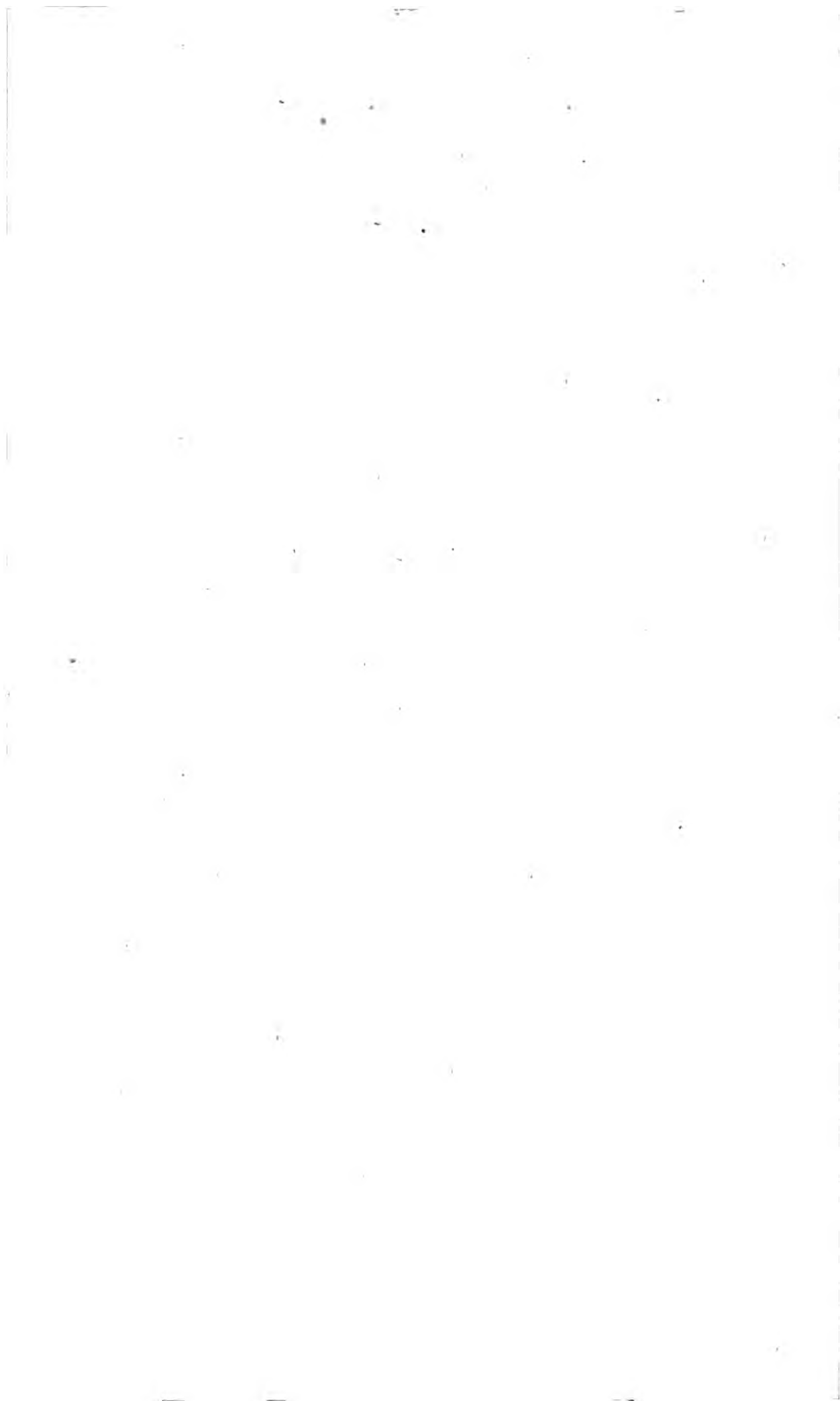
EDINBURGH:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;  
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND  
JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL,  
J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON,  
DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW; AND  
ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

---

M,DCC,XCIII.





# C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-2.	Increase.	Dec.	Page.
1	Elgin, -	6306	4534	—	1772	1
2	Montrose, -	4150	6194	2044	—	23
3	Moulin, -	2109	1749	—	360	50
4	Logierait, -	2487	2200	—	287	75
5	Gordon, -	737	912	175	—	88
6	Pitligo, -	1224	1300	76	—	96
7	Scoonie, -	1528	1675	147	—	106
8	Dumfries, -	4517	5600	1083	—	119
9	Menmuir, -	743	900	157	—	145
10	Portmoak, -	996	1105	109	—	156
11	Laurence-kirk,	757	1200	443	—	175
12	Unst, -	1368	1988	620	—	182
13	Urquhart and Log- gy Wester,	2590	2901	311	—	203
14	Mains of Fintry,	709	878	169	—	218
15	Old Kilpatrick,	1281	2452	1171	—	229
16	Cambuslang, -	934	1288	354	—	241
17	Slains, -	1286	1117	—	169	275
18	Inveraray, -	2751	1832	—	919	287
19	Tarves, -	2346	1690	—	656	309
20	Currie, -	1227	1300	73	—	313
21	Fettercairn, -	1950	2000	50	—	330
22	Cathcart, -	499	697	198	—	336
23	Lochlee, -	686	608	—	78	357
24	Craigie, -	551	700	149	—	369
25	Strachan, -	796	700	—	96	375
26	Ceres, -	2540	2320	—	220	379
27	Symington, -	359	610	251	—	394
28	Holme, -	1185	702	—	483	406
29	Keith, -	2683	3057	374	—	414
30	Cruden, -	2549	2028	—	521	431
31	North Berwick,	1412	1300	—	112	440
32	Ochiltree, -	1210	1150	—	60	446
33	Spott, -	727	619	—	108	451
	Carried over,	57193	59306	7954	5841	

## C O N T E N T S.

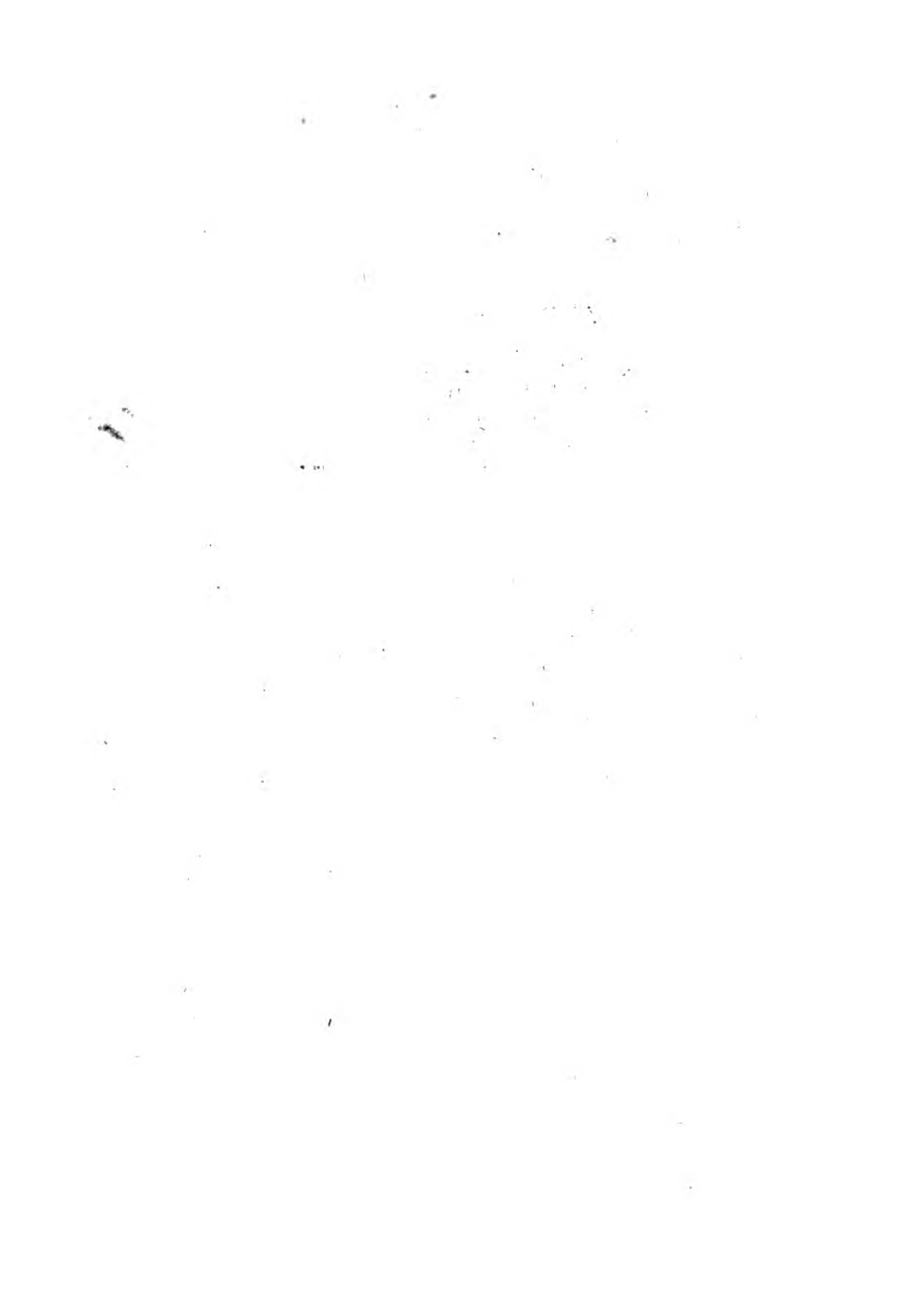
No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-2.	Increase.	Dec.	Page
	Brought over,	57193	59306	7954	5841	
34	Brechin, -	3181	5000	1819	—	457
35	Inverchaolain,	944	504	—	440	464
36	Dunbar, -	3281	3700	419	—	474
37	Glasgow, -	23546	61945	38399	—	488
38	Gorbals,* -	—	5000	*5000	—	539
39	Port-Glasgow,	1695	4036	2341	—	544
40	Greenock, -	3858	15000	11142	—	569
	Total,	93698	154491	67074	6281	
	Population in 1755,	—	93698	6281	—	
	Increase in 1791-2,	—	60793	60793	—	

\*\* This parish having been erected in 1771, whatever number of people it contained, in 1755, must have been enumerated in the population of Glasgow, and therefore the whole number of its present inhabitants is stated under the head of Increase.

## ADDENDA et ERRATA.

- Page 31. after line 30, insert The return to Dr Webster in  
1755 was 4150.*
- 90. *line 15, for returns, read return.*
- 175. — 17, — 4381 — 5381.
- 176. — 4, — Aberlethnot *read* Aberluthnot.
- *ib. after with read the.*
- 218. — 1, *for* XVI, *read* XIV.
- 410. — 13, *for* and — but.
- 453. — 4, — 1775 — 1755.
- Pages 96, 119, 145, 156 and 175, line 1. for Num. V. VII.  
VIII. IX. and X. read VI. VIII. IX. X. and XI.*

S T A.



---

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

O F

SCOTLAND.

PART V.

---

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF ELGYN.

(COUNTY OF MORAY.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN GRANT, one of the Ministers  
of Elgyn.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

IT is established by records, prior to the 1226, that the ancient name of the town, which communicates its name to the parish, was *Elgyn*, or *Helgyn* \*. Various etymologies, and interpretations of it, have been suggested. Whitaker

VOL. V. / A says,

\* Cartularium Moraviense, Fol. 5. v. Besides the town, there is an extensive country parish, about 10 English miles in length, and six in breadth.



says \*, that *Elgyn* signifies a peninsula or chersonesus; and Bullet asserts †, that *El* is a town, and *gin* agreeable. But were these derivations just, the same name would have been applied to an infinite number of places, in similar situations, which is far from being the case. It is more probable, therefore, that it derives its origin from Helgy, general of the army of Sigurd, the Norwegian Earl of Orkney, who, about 927, conquered Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Moray. It is said, that he built a town in the southern part of Moray, which, it is probable, was Elgyn, particularly as it is situated to the south of Duffeyrus, or the burgh in Duffus, where the Norwegians had a harbour for their shipping ‡. Many Norwegian princes were also named Helgy, and the inscription upon the town seal is, "*S. commune civitatis de Helgyn,*" engraved in Saxon characters, in a style earlier than the middle of the sixteenth century.

*Castle.*—In those ages a castle was always necessary to protect any town, and one was probably built, at an early period, for the defence of Elgyn. In the reign of William the Lyon of Scotland, there was a royal fort on a rising ground, now called Ladyhill ||; the ruins of which are still visible.

*The Borough.*—At what particular period, Elgyn was erected into a royal borough, does not appear. The first charter

\* History of the Britons Asserted.

† Bullet Memoires sur la Langue Celtique, vol. 1. p. 397.

‡ Rerum Orcadenium Historia, a Thormodo Torfæo, p. 12. 13.  
28. 31. 113.

|| Cart. Morav. fol. 17. v.

charter, in the archives of the town, is from Alexander II. *anno* 1234, who grants to the burgessees of Elgyn, a guild of merchants, with as extensive privileges as any other borough enjoys in Scotland.

It was the policy of the sovereign, in the middle ages, to give great privileges and immunities to the towns, for the purpose of balancing the dangerous power, which had been acquired by the nobles. But when the regal government became at any time feeble, these towns, unequal to their own protection, placed themselves under the shelter of the most powerful lord in their neighbourhood. Thus the town of Elgyn found it necessary at various periods, between the years 1389 and 1452, to accept of many charters of protection, and discharges of taxes, from the Earls of Moray, who held it in some species of vassalage. At last, Charles I. in 1633, established and confirmed all the grants of his royal predecessors, in favour of the borough; and the set, or form of its government, was ratified by the convention of boroughs, in 1706\*.

*Bishoprick.*—At the beginning of the eleventh century, the bishops in Scotland wore blue gowns, with their hair tucked under a cap †, and, having no particular diocese assigned them, were itinerant. The precise time, that Moray was erected into a bishoprick, is uncertain, the chartulary going no farther back than the 1200; but it appears, that before that period, the bishops occasionally employed the churches of Bruneth or Birney, of Spyny and Kinnedor,  
as

\* Elgyn has been frequently destroyed by fire; but, for historical facts, Shaw's History of the Province of Moray, must, in general, be referred to.

† Hist. Orcad. Th. Torfæi. p. 113.

as cathedrals, and resided near them \*; and that bishop Briceus, soon after the 1200, had the cathedral established at Spyny. In 1224, Bishop Andrew translated it to the church of the Holy Trinity near Elgyn. This building was destroyed by Alexander, Lord of Badenoch †. About 1397, however, it was begun to be rebuilt, but it was not finished till after the 1414. From the ruins which still remain, it appears to have been a large and splendid edifice, in the Gothic style of architecture, in length above 260 feet, and above 34 feet broad, and was not surpassed in beauty, by any building, of that nature, in the kingdom ‡.

The revenues of this bishoprick, were not contemptible, even prior to the 1239; but afterwards, in consequence of royal grants, and private donations, they became very considerable indeed. On the eve of the Reformation, several estates were feued off at low stipulations, yet the remainder would now produce a yearly income of above L. 4000 Sterling. In 1565, the rents were, L. 273 : 16 : 2 Sterling, 10 bolls of wheat; 41 chalders, 7 bolls, 2 firlots farm bear; 23 chalders, 3 bolls dry multure; 13 chalders, 11 bolls of oats with straw; 60 marts, or fat beeves; 162 sheep; 166 lambs; 206 dozen of capons; 42 dozen of poultry,

\* Cart. Mor. Fol. 1. r.

† Ibid. Fol. 62. r.

‡ A large space of ground was surrounded with a high wall, in many places yet entire, which inclosed what is now called the college, and contained, not only the cathedral and burying ground, but the houses or manfes, with the small gardens, that belonged to the twenty two canons, and dignitaries of the see. All these have now come into lay hands, but several of the manfes are inhabited, and distinguished by the names of the canonry they belonged to. Within this boundary the bishop also, had a large house, which was repaired by Bishop Hepburn, as his arms are carved on it, with the initials of his name, P. H.

poultry, 166 geese; 66 horse shoes; 8 swine; 11 lafts, and 8 barrels of salmon. \*

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface of this parish is flat, with little variety from rising grounds, except towards Black-hills, where the fields gradually ascend. The soil varies; here, a rich loam, there, a clay, but, in general, it is sandy, abounding with calcareous particles, and, on the whole, is fertile, producing plenty of grain, and of good quality. Within these few years, the quantity of pasture is enlarged, and abundance of hay raised, by the introduction of artificial grasses. This is greatly promoted by a climate friendly to vegetation, which, at the same time, gives so little interruption to the operations of the husbandman, that, it is reckoned, there are about three months more, of fair weather here, than in many places of the neighbouring county of Banff.

*Agriculture.*—Even in very remote times, the cultivation of the soil seems to have been properly attended to, in this part of Scotland: Our historians, it is true, chiefly employ themselves in retailing legendary stories, or giving inaccurate accounts of foreign or domestic wars, and political contests, overlooking unfortunately, the more important details of industry, trade, and population. In an investigation of this nature, therefore, scattered facts must be collected, and casual and contingent sources of information relied on; the result of which, however, is, that this country was anciently well cultivated and productive.

In

\* *Rentale Episcopatus, Mor. in A. D. 1565. Mro. Archibaldo Lindfay Camerario.*

In the reign of William the Lyon, lint paid teind <sup>1</sup>. In 1232, there were gardens of pot-herbs <sup>2</sup>; about 1225 there were carts in use <sup>3</sup>; before 1369, oxen were yoked to waggons <sup>4</sup>. Arable lands were measured prior to 1240 <sup>5</sup>; and water-mills for grinding corn were common prior to the 1200 <sup>6</sup>, and high multures paid <sup>7</sup>. Private gentlemen, in 1225, had breweries <sup>8</sup>; there were royal breweries before 1199 <sup>9</sup>. Leafes were granted for five lives in 1378 <sup>10</sup>, and for three lives about 1390 <sup>11</sup>; as also for three lives in 1383, under conditions to have the farms properly inhabited, and to preserve the woods in them <sup>12</sup>. In 1350, a perpetual annuity, from land-rents, was bought at 15 years purchase <sup>13</sup>. There were falt-works in the neighbourhood of Elgyn before 1226 <sup>14</sup>. In 1369, their grain appears to have been principally bear and oats <sup>15</sup>, \*.

These

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Cart. Morav. Fol. 15. v. | 2 Ib. Fol. 18. r.               |
| 3 Ib. Fol. 42. Col. 2. v.  | 4 Ib. Fol. 8. v.                |
| 5 Ib. Fol. 49. r.          | 6 Cart. Mor. Fol. 14. r. 17. v. |
| 7 Ib. Fol. 19. v.          | 8 Ib. Fol. 14. v. 79. v.        |
| 9 Ib. Fol. 37. Col. 1. r.  | 10 Ib. 34. v.                   |
| 11 Ib. Fol. 73. r.         | 12 Ib. Fol. 90. v.              |
| 13 Ib. 75. v.              | 14 Ib. Fol. 21. v.              |
| 15 Ib. Fol. 81. r.         |                                 |

\* To these facts, and the rental already mentioned, of the Bishop of Moray's estate in 1565, may be added the following evidence, arising from the testament of James Ogilvie of Findlater, dated 15th September 1565. In the inventory of his moveables, there are the following articles, "50 drawing oxen; 28 steers; 48 cows; 16 stirks; 18 calves; 400 sheep, whereof 11 score ewes, and four score lambs: *Item*, sown on his Mains, of oats, 21 score of bolls, estimate to the third corn; of bear, four score bolls, estimate to the fourth corn; of wheat 21 bolls, estimate to the fourth corn; of pease, seven bolls: *Item*, in the barn-yards, three stacks of bear, extending to six score bolls bear; one stack of oats, extending to six score bolls of oats; one stack of wheat, extending to 30 bolls wheat: *Item*, five work horses." The original is among the Earl of Findlater's papers.

These facts tend to prove, that tillage, in those early periods, was attended to, and indeed considerably advanced. It was probably in an improving state, until the accession of James VI. to the throne. During his minority, and thence to the year 1620, Scotland in general, and the northern parts of it in particular, were torn by factions, and laid waste by rapine and bloodshed, more than any other country in Europe. When beginning to recover, the civil wars in the reign of the unfortunate Charles I. the persecutions under Charles II. and the famine in the reign of King William, materially affected the industry of the people; so that the nation did not breathe, in peace and quiet, till the beginning of this century. Nor was it cured of its languor, till after the 1746, when the people awoke, as it were, from a profound slumber. Within these last 30 years, their industry has become active, and, in general, has been directed by intelligence.

The present practice of farming, and succession of crops, varies, according to the nature of the soil, and the genius of the farmer. Three plowings are generally given to a field for bear; one after harvest, another in March, and a third in May, with the manure. The succeeding crop is oats, with grass seeds, or pease, and next year it is dressed for bear, with a sprinkling of dung. Others, fallow, or have turnips or potatoes, which is followed by oats or bear, sowed down with grass seeds. In very light soils, rye is sown after bear to great advantage, and the next crop is bear with manure and grass seeds. Sometimes old leys are broken up in August, and after another plowing in spring, the crop is oats, and the succeeding season bear, after three plowings and dung.

This is the general rotation of crops. Fallows are daily becoming more universal, as are turnips, which several  
farmers

farmers begin to raise on a large scale, either to feed cattle for the butcher, or, which is found to be more advantageous, to give them to their young cattle, as it greatly improves their size.

The practice of sowing clover and rye-grass, is daily gaining ground. Six pounds of red clover seed, and from 8 to 10 of white, with 2 bushels of rye-grass, is the general quantity to an acre. Hay is taken for two years, and pasture the third, and then the field is broken up for oats or barley, according to its state. A few sow red clover alone, at the rate of about 20 pounds to the acre.

Sowing wheat was much run upon, about 20 years ago, in this parish and the neighbourhood, but now is justly on the decline; for the returns from the wheat, however high the price, did not compensate for the injury done to the soil, by so exhausting a crop.

Potatoes were introduced into the fields, about 60 years ago, and are now planted in great quantities all over the country. Their quality, from the dryness of the soil, is excellent, and the produce considerable. Sometimes they are exported to Newcastle, and other places.

Mr Leslie of Balnagight, a very accurate observer, has lately adopted a method of managing a potatoe crop, which many imitate with success. It is this: He plows his potatoe field before winter, and, if the ground is full of weeds, propagated from the roots, he plows again before he plants. If not, he dungs as for barley, and plants early in March, putting the seed in every furrow after the plough, and harrows well immediately after. As soon as the weeds get up, and the potatoes begin to appear, (perhaps one in a square yard or two,) he gives it a third plowing and harrowing, about the first of May, according as the plants are advanced. This culture, with one hoeing when  
the

the weeds appear again, never fails to produce a good crop. But what is also of great advantage, it leaves the ground cleaner and mellowed, and in a fitter condition for wheat, or any other crop, than a complete fallow. Those who grudge the few seeds, that may be turned up by the plough or the harrow, have only to cause a boy replace the plants, on the face of the furrow, where it may be necessary.

A considerable quantity of grain, of different kinds, has been annually exported from Moray in general, principally from the ports of Findhorn, Lossiemouth, and Germach, to London, Leith, and the mouth of the canal at Carron. Last year, above 10,000 bolls were shipped from those ports. This is almost the first export in any quantity, since 1783, when by the failure of the crop in 1782, about 100,000 bolls of corn and meal were imported to both sides of the Moray frith.

The whole low part of the county of Moray is fruitful in corn, and the parish of Elgyn, among the rest. Besides what is exported by sea, and sent to the Highlands, the licensed stills in the county, consume a great quantity. There are 19 of these stills, measuring in all 635 gallons, which, by law, are intitled to distill 3863 bolls of bear annually, and a brewery, established of late in this town, malts above 1500 bolls. Were the smuggling of foreign spirits into this country effectually suppressed, the exportation of corn would probably greatly diminish, if not totally cease.

Many years ago, the land was tilled by 6, 8, or 10 oxen, in a plough, and sometimes by 2 or 4 oxen, with 1 or 2 horses. The late Sir Robert Gordon, of Gordonstown, about 30 years ago, introduced the practice of plowing with only two horses, managed by reins, without a driver. This



mode is now generally adopted, and, within these 12 years, 2 oxen in traces, are also used by several farmers, and in the light soils, with success. For this reason, and as the pasture is improved by artificial grasses, and green food being occasionally given them in winter, the breed of black cattle has been greatly improved, though in the country at large, the numbers on the whole are diminished. L. 12 Sterling is often paid for an ox raised in this neighbourhood, and above L. 20 has been given for a fatted ox. Farmers, however, prefer in general, horses for the plough, particularly when they are bred on their own farms, which is done by many. The style of farming utensils is greatly improved, in regard to ploughs, as well as carts and waggons. Two-horse carts are coming into use. The average rent of the Scotch acre of arable land, in the immediate vicinity of the town, is from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2 Sterling, and in the country part of the parish, it is from 15 s. to 18 s. Sterling; but this varies, as a great proportion, perhaps too great, of the rents, is paid in bear and oats. Rents are advancing daily. The price of labour is amazingly raised within the last 30 years. Then a plowman had from 40 s. to 50 s. a-year; and now they receive from L. 5 to L. 7 Sterling, and other servants are paid in the same proportion. There is no such thing as services exacted by any of the proprietors, in this parish.

The most considerable heritor is Lord Fife, next the Earl of Moray, &c. There are great numbers of proprietors, in the immediate vicinity of the town, who have only small pieces of land belonging to them, and, in general, most improperly separated, and detached; so that they cannot cultivate their grounds, to the same advantage, as if they were more contiguous to each other. From this cause, there are but few inclosures or hedges about the place.

*Commerce.*

*Commerce.* When King Alexander gave Elgyn the charter of guildry, there doubtless existed some foreign, as well as domestic trade. It is certain, that in 1249, a French nobleman, (the Count de St. Paul and Blois,) had a ship of war built at Inverness, at no great distance from Elgyn \*. It appears, that in 1383, the burghesses of Elgyn had a trading vessel, named Farcoft, that sailed up the Loffie, which then had direct communication with the loch of Spynie, at that time an arm of the sea †. This vessel was loaded with barrels of beer, tallow and flour. In those days, also the bishop's fishing boats sailed from the town and castle of Spynie, to the Moray Frith ‡. In regard to the more recent commerce of Elgyn, about 40 or 50 years ago, it was principally carried on with Holland; but now the trade is chiefly with London, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Carron, &c. &c. for the importation of manufactured articles, rather more than the country can well afford; as the exports, independent of cattle, a few horses and corn, are but confined, and mostly consist of dressed skins for gloves, to the amount of between L. 300 and L. 400; and of linen yarn, to the value of about L. 2000 Sterling. There are now 44 shops opened in this town, principally for the sale of imported goods.

In the end of last century, and about the 1722, there was a considerable export of malt, from this place to Norway.— There were then above 30 malt barns, always employed, but the people at Dunbar supplanted them greatly, and the malt tax completed its ruin. Gloves were made here, some years ago, in great perfection, and a number sent to different markets. That trade is much on the decline. The spinning  
of

\* Lord Hailes's Annals of Scotland, vol. 1. † Cart. Mor. fol. 93, r. ‡ Ib. fol. 93, r.

of lint has prevailed over a manufacture of woollen stuffs, which formerly existed in this town and parish, to a considerable amount. The great number of sheep, then in the neighbourhood, did not supply the demand, so that it was necessary to purchase wool from the highlanders in Strathspey, &c. The plantations of wood, and sown grasses, have thrown sheep so much out of the low country, that thirty years ago, more hundreds were annually sold out of it, than there are now scores in it. The wool was then of a very fine staple, from a small white faced breed, and indeed approached in quality to that of Shetland. Now the large bodied, black faced sheep, whose fleeces are of a very rough and inferior nature, are in request among us.

That some estimate may be formed of the occupations in this parish, it may be proper to observe, that in the country part, there are 9 tailors, 19 weavers, 9 wrights, including mill wrights, 5 shoemakers, and 7 blacksmiths. In the town are 16 blacksmiths, 70 weavers, 70 wrights, including makers of ploughs and waggons; 55 shoemakers, 32 tailors, 8 glovers, 3 tinmen, 6 barbers, 4 bakers, 2 surgeons, and 2 physicians. There are also 2 tanners, who carry on their business, though not on a large scale; and a soapery, in which the partners propose to manufacture a considerable quantity.

*Funds of the Town.*—The gross amount of the public revenue of the town, is about L. 200 Sterling, arising from lands, feu-rents, petty customs of the markets, &c. and from the village of Lofliemouth, of which the magistrates acquired the property, from the family of Brodie, in 1694. They possessed it many years, without any advantage. At length some public-spirited members of the magistracy, proposed to improve the harbour, at the river mouth. From the funds of the town, and voluntary contributions of the inhabitants,

habitants, with a grant from the Convention of Burghs, and other liberal donations, one jetty head has been erected, and another carried out a considerable way, but not completed. This has rendered the harbour more commodious, so that vessels of 80 tons can now enter with a spring-tide. The harbour could, without doubt, be much more improved, but this partial amendment has already encouraged a spirit of building at that place. The town can give in all, 180 feus on their property there, of various measurement, at the rate of from 5 s. to 1 guinea each, of yearly feu-duty. Sixty of these feus are already granted, more are daily taken, and many are actually built on.

*Charitable Funds.*—The guild-brethren, in 1714, began the establishment of a fund, for the widows of their decayed members. The yearly contribution, from each individual, is 23 s. but by their care and œconomy, they have purchased lands, in the vicinity, to the amount of L. 76 Sterling, of yearly rent; and they have also some money at interest. But of this revenue, they distribute L. 40 annually in pensions to widows, and the remainder is added to the capital. The six incorporations of smiths, glovers, tailors, shoemakers, weavers, and wrights, have also, each of them, various capitals, arising from yearly assessments, on their respective brethren, for the aid of their poor, and decayed members and widows. These capitals are from L. 100, to L. 300 Sterling, and they have very properly followed the example of the guildry, by laying out their savings in the purchase of lands and houses. There are also two charitable foundations in the town, begun in 1785, and subject to certain regulations. The one is called the *Friendly*, and the other the *St Giles's Society*. The members of each contribute 7d. a month, and the funds of the first amount to about

bout L. 350, and of the other to about L. 230 Sterling. The town, from mortified money, distributes yearly about L. 18 Sterling, which is under their management. They have also four beidmen, established on the preceptory of Messindew, in their gift. Provost Cumming also mortified lands, with houses, for four decayed guild-brethren, to which his heir, and the magistrates of Elgyn, present alternately. Each of those, so presented, have L. 2 Sterling, quarterly, with a house and a small garden. Here also, it may be mentioned, among the other sources of charitable donations, that there are two mason-lodges, one of which is opulent. The Sunday collections amount to about L. 45 a-year, and the interest of the money, under the management of the kirk-session, is L. 8, 11 s. Sterling. Altogether, what is set apart for charitable purposes, in this town and parish, amounts to no contemptible sum.

*Schools.*—In consequence of some Royal grants \*, the magistrates have been enabled to build two school-houses, which are kept

\* Andrew, Bishop of Moray, between the years 1225, and 1237, founded a *Domus Dei*, near the brook Taok, and Leper-house at Elgyn, and established some brothers and sisters in it, for charitable and pious purposes; and endowed it, for that design; as did also King Alexander II. On the Reformation, the Crown seized it; and 22d March 1594, King James, by a grant, gave the magistrates of Elgyn the lands and superiorities, belonging to this hospital, or *Domus Dei*, vulg. *Messindew*, for supporting some poor, agreeable to the design of the original foundation. The magistrates were appointed patrons. This was confirmed by a royal charter, 5th December 1599. On the last day of February, 1620, the magistrates obtained another charter, under the great seal, confirming the original grant, and appointing them; not only to maintain a few poor out of these lands and superiorities, but, to support a schoolmaster, “*ad docendum musicam, aliasque liberales artes, intra dictum nostrum burgum in posterum.*” The original charters are in the archives of the town. Agreeable to this, the magistrates have built, and kept in repair, a house for lodging four beidmen; and give each of them four bolls of bear yearly, with a gown, and a small piece of garden ground. The rest of the fund is applied to the maintenance of schools.

kept in proper repair. To one master, who teaches church-music, writing, reading, and arithmetic, they give L. 10 yearly. They have also established a schoolmaster for classical learning, the teacher of which has L. 21 Sterling of salary, arising partly from this endowment, and partly from mortified money; to which the heritors of the town or country, contribute nothing; so that it is not a legal parochial school, though it answers that purpose.

The magistrates, and several respectable inhabitants, wishing to have the plan of education in the town enlarged, and that the children might be instructed in some additional branches of learning, immediately under their own eye, have proposed a plan, for an academy in the town, in which, not only reading English, arithmetic, and classical learning, is to be taught, but Greek, French, geography, book-keeping, and various branches of the mathematics, with land-surveying, and drawing. The magistrates have subscribed, for carrying this plan into effect, L. 42 Sterling a-year, and the inhabitants have contributed already about L. 500 Sterling; and, depending on the liberality of the public, have addressed their friends at home and abroad to assist them.—There are also Sunday schools established in the town, and with success.

*Population.*—The population of the parish of Elgyn, in the country part of that district, is, from various causes, considerably on the decline. The town, indeed, has increased in the number of its inhabitants, but not of late in proportion to the decrease in the country. The number of souls, in the country parish is 1614, divided into 377 families, among which are 43, that have but one person in each. In the town are 2920 souls, divided into 658 families, of which 140 contain one person in each. The total number  
is

is 1035 families, and 4534 souls, which is nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to a family. The return to Dr Webster, from this parish, being 6306, fully proves to what an extent depopulation has been carried.

The annual average of baptisms, for the last 7 years, is, by the register, but 89. At least 15 more may be added, to supply the deficiencies in the register, or those baptised by sectaries. The annual average of marriages, for the same period is 33. No accurate state of burials can be given\*.

*Stipend.*—The stipend victual of the parish of Elgyn to each minister, (it is a collegiate charge,) should amount, by the decret in 1714, to 104 bolls of bear, but the actual payments are only 103 bolls 2 pecks. The money stipend to each, is L. 49, 9 s. Sterling, but in this are included L. 6, as the rent of half of the glebe, and L. 2, 2 s. as his share of the rent of the ground for a manse and garden. But from this sum is to be deduced 11 s. 1 d. as the vicarage of the college, which does not now exist. There is no manse, though the ground for building on, had been set apart, with a suitable garden. The Crown is patron of both livings. The congregation in the parish church, is numerous and respectable.

\* In 1643, a Mr Douglas, town-clerk of Elgyn, by order, and at sight of the magistrates, and upon their credit, attests, that, by the rolls at their muster, there were only aucht score, (one hundred and sixty) able bodied men, fit for bearing arms in the town, and to pass six months, in such business; and of these only fourscore could be furnished, with *muscats, pickes, gunnis, balberds, denfaixes*, or *Lochaber aixes*. This bears, to be taken up, by the direction and warrant of the Committee of Estates. There is another attestation in 1645, signed by the same Douglas, and the Provost and Council of Elgyn, that bears there were only fourscore sensible men within the burgh, many having fled from the town, for fear of their enemies. In this attestation, the Provost, after his name, adds *Provost of Helgeyne*.

respectable. There is also a separate meeting, consisting partly of persons belonging to this parish, but principally from the neighbouring ones. They contribute L. 40 Sterling a-year to the maintenance of their clergyman. The Seceders have one, and the Episcopalians two meeting-houses. None of these are numerous; neither are the Roman Catholics, nor Methodists.

*Diseases.*—The diseases most prevalent, in this town and parish, are fluxes, consumptions, and the King's evil. Children have the common routine of chincoughs, measles and small-pox. The type of fevers is much changed within these last thirty years. Before that period, the pleuritic and inflammatory kinds prevailed. Now, they are low, lingering, and nervous. This alteration may arise, from our wanting the hardiness of our forefathers. Every thing cold is in disuse. Clothing is warmer. Warm liquors, as punch, tea, &c. are the fashion, even among the lower classes. On the whole, we are become more effeminate; and labour more severe, whilst the mind is depressed, from the anxieties of life, and the difficulty of procuring a subsistence.

The progress of the scrophula is alarming, by intermarriages, and the imperfect cure of the lues, with a low diet. Consumptions are frequent among the young. Manufacturers and tradesmen, in particular, are subject to them, from the nature of their employment. The women lead sedentary lives in spinning, from which arise obstructions, &c. that often terminate fatally; and from the same causes, difficult labours are more common than formerly.

*Borough Lands.*—There is a large field of arable land, to the west of Elgyn, through which the Loffie runs, divided into what are called *auchteen parts*, but consisting of *sixty-four*,



which vary in extent from 4 to 6 acres each. Originally, they belonged to 64 distinct proprietors, burgesſes of Elgyn. The ſoil of a great part of this ground is good, being a rich loam, over a clay bottom; and the whole might be greatly improved, were the ſeparate parts thrown into one connected field; but they lie in run-rig, and ſo diſjoined, that different portions, of the ſame lot, may be almoſt an Engliſh mile aſunder. The Loſſie is making great encroachments on ſome of them; and as they ſtill are the property of a number of different perſons, though many of them have been acquired by one individual, no common meaſure has been adopted, to imbank the river, which might be done by piles, at a ſmall expence. Theſe havocks of the river, have diſcovered in different places, a foot or two thick of excellent peat moſs, buried from 4 to 6 feet, under the loam and clay. It is uncertain, who originally granted theſe lands to the 64 burgeſſes of Elgyn. Tradition has uniformly reported, that they were given, as a compenſation, to the families of men who had fallen in battle, on ſome important occaſion\*.

*Pluſcarden.*—The ruins of the priory of Pluſcarden, in the weſt end of this pariſh, are truly magnificent. The church was never completed, as the foundations of the weſt part of the croſs were only laid. There are ſmall pieces of freſco painting, that remain under an arch in the church, which are tolerably accurate in the deſign, and the colours lively. The mill for grinding their corns, was within the high free-ſtone walls, that ſurrounded their burying-ground, &c. Their gardens were excellent. A fig-tree was there

a

\* See Robert Gordon's deſcription of Scotland, in *Bleau's Atlas*, anno 1647, vol. 6. p. 105.

a few years ago, which annually produced fruit. The Glen of Plufcarden, after passing through the hands of many proprietors, has become the property of Lord Fife.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the year 1754, a ship loaded with coals, came to Loffiemouth. The demand was then so small, that the importer could not dispose of 100 barrels. Now, the demand is so great, that upwards of twenty ships arrive with English coals, and six with Scotch, and it is daily encreasing. It is particularly unkind in government, not to say *oppressive*, that those who are necessarily subjected to a high freight, and an inland carriage, should pay an exorbitant duty on that indispensable accommodation of life, from which those at the pit mouth are exempted. It is an odious discrimination of the subjects of the same kingdom, and, in its effects, it is equally hostile to the agriculture and the manufactures of the country.

The inhabitants of the towns, in the northern parts of Scotland, are tolerably industrious; but, in general, they have not as yet established any manufacture, for employing young children, and giving them early habits of industry, which would operate greatly in their favour through life. A pin-work, or any such employment, that demands no great capital, and yet requires a number of feeble hands, would be of the greatest consequence, and produce happy effects.

Throwing a bridge over the Spey, would open the communication between the north and south, would facilitate the land-carriage of goods, and would prove of singular advantage to the traveller; so that it is, in fact, a national object, to have this speedily accomplished.

The history of a plantation of common firs, made by the late Lord Fife, many years ago, deserves notice. It is in the vicinity of the boat of Bog, near the Spey. It was twice  
planted

planted over, and as often failed, from its northern exposure, the neighbourhood of the sea, and a sterile soil. A sagacious country gardener raised a nursery on the most exposed place of this plantation, from which he took the plants, and they thrive well. By this mode, were it uniformly adopted, plantations might be raised, even within the reach of the sea spray, or on any exposure, the plants being habituated, in early life, to their situation. There is moss, in many parts of Scotland, at flood-mark; and, in North America, trees grow within the reach of spring tides.

It may not be improper, to conclude this paper, with some observations on the causes of depopulation, in some parts of Scotland, by which this district in particular seems to be distinguished.

1. Our standing armies, from dissipation and other causes are hostile to marriage, and the rearing of children; nor are the children produced, in general, either healthy or long lived. A great navy, and multitudes of sailors employed in foreign commerce, must have the same effect.

2. Increase of manufactures. It is allowed, that where manufacturing families are scattered over a country, and each of them has a few acres of land, in the culture of which they are occasionally employed, a numerous and healthy breed is the necessary consequence. But when numbers are cooped up, in ill-aired, low, damp houses, neither the parents, nor the children are healthy. Besides, a sedentary, and confined situation, is adverse to longevity, and to a healthy progeny.

3. Sheep farms in the Highlands of Scotland, and in other places, have obliged numbers to emigrate; and when once a country becomes depopulated, by the removal of its native inhabitants, it requires ages to recruit them.

4. In the Lowlands, the spirit of the times, has introduced a system, of converting many small, into one large farm.

The

The individual, who occupies such a farm, having fewer mouths to maintain, can afford, perhaps, a greater rent, than what many families, on the same surface of ground, could pay at once. But the population being thus greatly diminished, the value of the property may, in process of time, suffer by it. Numbers, made superfluous by this measure, flock into towns, where with difficulty, they earn a scanty subsistence. They, no doubt, increase the population of these towns; but towns, on almost any scale, are adverse to either the keeping up, or the increasing of numbers. A country life was the original destination of man, is the most favourable to wealth and population, and ought, on every account, to meet with all possible encouragement and protection. The most favourable size of farms to make a country populous, is from 15 to 40 acres of arable land. The occupiers of such farms marry early, as they have the prospect of bread, if they are industrious. But when farms are overgrown, they are mostly inhabited by servants and day-labourers; and every measure is tried to keep wages and the price of labour low, by which marriage is discouraged. Day-labourers then become afraid of marrying, and servants very seldom can; and thus the numbers of a healthy peasantry are daily diminished.

5. These circumstances also lead to emigration, and to this it may be added, that incited by the prospect of making a fortune, as it is called, the flower of our young men, of every class and description, go abroad; and for one, who returns in a comfortable situation, and raises a family, how many hundreds, I had almost said thousands, drop by the road. Their wealth, however accumulated, cannot surely compensate for the loss of so many citizens; indeed, scarcely repaying the original expence of fitting them out.

Lastly,

Lastly, luxury and its certain attendant, an exorbitant expence of living, most materially affects population. It discourages marriage, until persons acquire an income, adequate in their estimation, to that state; or, in other words, until they are advanced in years, and then a puny helpless race of children is produced. Hence, how many men of every description remain single? and how many young women of every rank are never married, who, in the beginning of this century, and even so late as the 1745, would have been the parents of a numerous and healthy progeny?

N U M-

NUMBER II.

TOWN AND PARISH OF MONTROSE.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MOLLESON.

---

*Origin of the Name.*

THE ancient name of Montrose seems to have been *Celurca* \*. Many derivations have been assigned for its modern appellation. The most probable is from the Gaelic, in which language *Moinrofs* signifies "the fenny promontory," and it is called by the vulgar, *Monrofs* to this day †. Buchanan and others, have given it a derivation more flattering than just, when they assert, that it properly means the *Mount of Roses* (*Mons Rosarum*). Yet, in allusion to this fanciful derivation, the seal of the town is impressed

\* See Boethius. To this name also Johnston alludes in the following lines :

- " Aureolis urbs picta rosis ; mons, molliter urbi
- " Imminet ; hinc urbi nomina facta canunt :
- " Et veteres perhibent quondam dixisse Celurcam ;
- " Nomine sic prisco et nobilitata novo est.

† See Irvine's Nomenclat. Scot. 158. Baxter. (Gloss. Ant. Brit. 170.) derives it from *Mant-e-rose*, "the mouth of the stream." Others from *Montrois*, from the three hills in its neighbourhood, the Forthill, the Horloge-hill, and the Windmill hill. On the whole, *Moin-rofs* is the most probable.

impressed with roses; and the motto is, "*Mare ditat, rosa decorat,*" (the sea enriches, and the rose adorns).

*Situation.*—This parish is situated in the presbytery of Brechin, in the synod of Angus and Mearns, and in the county of Angus or Forfar. It may be considered under two heads, the town and the country district. We shall begin with giving a concise account of the country part of the parish. The town will require a more minute and particular description.

### 1. *Country district.*

*Extent, &c.*—The length of the parish, from north to south, is about 3 English miles. Its breadth from east to west, is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The general appearance of the district is flat; but towards its northern extremity it rises gradually, and terminates in a hill of no very considerable height, called, the hill of Montrose. The country in the neighbourhood, being fertile and well cultivated, affords a delightful prospect in almost every part of this parish. A beautiful and extensive expanse of Ocean; ships frequently sailing in all directions; the town and basin of Montrose; the arches and ornaments of the bridge of Dun; the windings of the river Southesk, with the rich fields upon its banks; the charming valley of Strathmore; a number of gentlemen's seats, and the plantations around them; the venerable steeples of the ancient city of Brechin, and the celebrated Grampian hills stretching from the German Ocean, farther to the west, than the eye can penetrate, must charm every traveller of taste. They afford also a permanent entertainment, to every inhabitant of Montrose, who takes a pleasure in contemplating the sublime and variegated works of nature.

*Rivers.*

*Rivers.*—To this parish belong two very considerable rivers. The one, the Northesk, separates the shire of Angus from that of Kincardine or the Mearns, and runs through the northern extremity of the parish, into the German Ocean. The post-road from Montrose to Aberdeen, crossing this river near its mouth, and the ford, often varying, it frequently proved fatal to travellers; the inhabitants of Montrose, excited by the activity of Alexander Christie, Esq; provost at that time, and aided by a generous public, together with a liberal donation from the annexed estates, built, in 1775, a handsome bridge, consisting of seven arches, across this ford. This bridge is of great advantage to the neighbouring country, and opens, upon the eastern coast, an easy communication with the northern part of this kingdom. The river sometimes swells to a great height; and, as its banks are low, the adjacent fields in this parish, suffer, on such occasions, considerable damage. The proprietors, however, cannot complain, for it fertilizes their lands, and the salmon fishing on both sides renders their estates much more valuable, than they would otherwise be. The Southesk separates this parish from that of Craig. After many beautiful meanders, gliding through the basin, and passing by the harbour of Montrose, this river falls into the German Ocean, about a mile from the town.

Over this river it is proposed to make a bridge, first from the Fort hill to the island of Inchbrayock, and then a small one, from Inchbrayock to the lands of Craig. Estimates have already been given in, of one bridge with the piers of stone, and the rest of wood, of another entirely of wood, and of a third entirely of stone. Subscriptions, to a considerable amount, have been obtained, and an act of parliament having also passed last session for that purpose, this great work will probably soon be accomplished. It is certainly a great



undertaking for such a place; but it will doubtless contribute much to the advantage of Montrose, will add to the value of lands in that neighbourhood, and, if the roads are once put in proper order, will be an additional inducement, to bring the mail-coach, along this coast, to the north of Scotland, the benefit of which will be very great.

*Bafon.*—The bafon of Montrose is a beautiful piece of water, nearly circular, and about three miles in diameter. At low water, it is mostly dry, but at high water, it has a charming effect from the west side of the town, washes the garden-walls, and tends much to the cleanliness of the place. Vessels, of 50 or 60 tons burden, come to the east and west side of the bafon, without any risk. This is of great advantage to the surrounding heritors, as they can bring lime and coals, by water, very near their different estates.

In the last century, an attempt was made to cut off a considerable part of the bafon, and convert it into arable land, by running a dike from near the Fort hill, along the bank of the river Southesk, towards the estate of Dun. The scheme was nearly carried into execution; and, as the soil is a strong clay, it would have been very advantageous to the proprietors. But the persons who had the management of this undertaking, quarrelling among themselves, the work went on but slowly; and when the dike was nearly completed, a storm arose, and levelled the whole with the ground. The foundation of this dike is still visible, and the scheme appears rational; but all thoughts of carrying it into execution, even on a smaller scale, seem, at present, to be abandoned. Some houses in the town, are known to have been built of stones, which composed a part of this dike. It is still called the *Drainers dike*.

*State of Property, &c.*—The country part of the parish, besides many small feus, is divided into eight larger properties; of these, the estate of Kinnabar, which once belonged to the family of Montrose, one of whose titles, to this day, is Baron of Kinnabar, is the most considerable. It is rendered more valuable by the fishing, and the improvement of some waste ground. The present mansion-house is undergoing considerable repairs, and lies in a romantic elevated situation, surrounded by trees. The soil of Kinnabar, and of the estates of Charleton, Newmanwalls, Borrowfield, and Hedderwick, is, in general, very good, and cultivated with spirit, according to the best schemes of modern improvers. Even where the low lands have a light soil, as they have long received town manure, they are very productive of all kinds of grain and turnips, especially, when, before breaking up, they are clayed upon the grass. The upper grounds, are, in general, of a thin and muirish soil, but much improved of late, by the above manure, and lime from the adjoining parish.

The valued rent amounts to L. 2200 Scotch, or L. 183, 6s. 8d. Sterling. There are in the parish about 3080 acres occupied as follows :

	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>
In wheat,	60	Carried over,	1000
— Oats,	400	Sown or artificial grasses,	1000
— Barley,	350	Pasture,	400
— Pease,	100	Waste and heath,	400
— Turnips,	70	Wood,	250
— Potatoes,	20	Marshes,	30
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total in grain,	1000	Total,	3080

The medium rent of land in the parish is L. 1, 10s. a-year in the country district. Some lets at L. 2, 10s. and some

some borough lands at L. 4 the acre, which is the highest. The price of the latter, sometimes rises so high, as L. 100 the acre.

In the country part of the parish there are, at an average,

Horses,	-	-	-	-	130
Cattle,	-	-	-	-	500
Sheep,	-	-	-	-	100
Carts,	-	-	-	-	56
Horse ploughs,	-	-	-	-	37
Cattle, ditto,	-	-	-	-	3
Four-wheeled carriages,	-	-	-	-	5

No earths useful in manufactures have as yet been discovered, except clay for bricks, which is very good for that purpose. The trees are mostly young, and principally consist of planes, elms, birch and larix.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are several springs in this parish, of the chalybeate kind, but none of them strong. There is one nigh the town, of a different sort, which is certainly worthy of a chymical analysis. About 50 years ago, Dr Thomson, physician in Montrose, made a variety of experiments on the water of this well, by which it appears, that it bears a considerable resemblance to that of Scarborough, and has nearly the same qualities; notwithstanding which, it has not been of late much frequented by strangers, nor even by the people of Montrose. Other wells are more resorted to, not, perhaps, because they are more efficacious, but because they are at a greater distance, and in greater vogue with people of fashion.

*Sea Coast.*—As far as this parish extends, the shore is sandy and very level. There are no rocks or currents, from the mouth of the one river to that of the other. The tide

tide of flood runs S. W. along the shore. The two nearest head lands are the Red-head on the south, and the Tod-head on the north. At the former, with off-shore winds, the anchorage is very good.—In the beginning of this century, however, a fleet of merchant ships, sailing to a Dutch settlement, with stores of all kinds, were wrecked upon this northern coast, and one or two were lost in the mouth of the Northesk.

### 2. Town of Montrose.

*Situation, &c.*—The latitude of the town of Montrose is  $56^{\circ} 34'$  north; and its longitude from London is  $2^{\circ} 10'$  west. It is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence in a peninsula, formed by the basin, the river Southesk and the German Ocean. The neck, which connects with the mainland on the N. E., formerly, must have been much narrower than at present; as, from the appearance of the links, it is evident, that the sea has retired from its former limits, almost a mile. This is the voice of tradition, to which every spectator must assent.

*Air, Diseases, &c.*—From the situation of Montrose, it may naturally be imagined, that the atmosphere is replete with aqueous particles, and very piercing in cold weather, and when the wind is from the east. But, as the town is built, on a sandy dry soil, and there are hardly any stagnant waters or lakes in the neighbourhood, it is not subject to those miasmata, which occasion agues and fevers. The most prevalent diseases of Montrose, are, of the chronic sort, such as, rheumatism, toothach, fore-throat, scurvy, scrophula, &c. Phthisis pulmonalis, frequently proceeding from scrophula interna, is not uncommon in this place. The hypochondriac, or hysterical disease, prevails much

much among all ranks, especially the vulgar. When fevers occur, they are almost constantly of the nervous tribe. Every malady proceeding from a relaxed state of the fibres prevails here. This relaxation is occasioned, by our atmosphere being replete with marine vapours, and a copious mephitic exhalation, emitted from the basin, when the water retires. From this account, putrid diseases might be supposed to be among our endemics, but they are not. The true putrid sore-throat is a rare distemper here; and our nervous fevers, unless neglected, or improperly treated, rarely assume the putrid diathesis. The humidity of our atmosphere is probably corrected by a considerable mixture of saline particles.—The water is excellent, and to be had in abundance. It is conveyed about 3 miles in pipes of lead, and issues from wells in different parts of the town.

*Antiquities.*—Among the few antiquities, which Montrose can boast of, the Fort hill, which takes its name from the castle, built on its summit, deserves to be particularly mentioned. From its position, it was well adapted to command the town, the harbour, and the shipping in the river. The main current of the river probably flowed, in former times, on the other side of the island of Inchbrayock, and it has evidently made very considerable encroachments on this hill. A well was discovered a few years ago on the brink, and, when the water is clear and smooth, another has been seen a good way into the river. Both of them, in all probability, have been once within the fort. The inhabitants remember, that the river at the Fort hill was not near so deep, nor so broad, as at present. Tradition says, that in ancient times, persons on the opposite banks could almost shake hands. Another memorable and valuable piece of antiquity

antiquity belonging to Montrose is an hospital, or *maison de Dieu*, which has been allowed to go to ruin; but the revenues are preserved, and are under the management of the Town-council, and a master of the hospital of their appointment. One of the most ancient houses in the town, (now belonging to, and possessed by Mr Scott of Logie), is famous for being the house, where the celebrated Marquis of Montrose was born; and in which the pretender slept on 13th February 1716, the night before his escape. Next morning he went on board a frigate, which lay in the road, and conveyed him safe to France.

*Population.*—The following statements will pretty clearly prove a progressive increase of population.

	For 10 years, ending 1770.	Ditto, ending 1790.
Annual average of Marriages,	35	52
————— Baptisms,	73	96
————— Burials,	118	160

The lists of marriages and burials may be depended on. The list of baptisms is as exact as could be procured. But the inattention of parents, and the backwardness of many to pay the schoolmaster his dues, is a matter of very general complaint throughout Scotland, and contributes to render such lists less accurate, than might be wished. If we multiply 127, which was the number of burials from 1st January 1685, to ditto 1686, by 36, the parish, at that time, would contain about 4572 inhabitants. According to this method of computation, the number of souls, from 1740 to 1750, were, at an average, only 4248 but, from 1780 to 1790, they increased considerably.

The following lists were extracted from the minister's parish rolls, which are made up with all possible accuracy:

In

	In Town.	In the Country.	Total.
Number of souls in 1776,	4465	909	5374
Ditto in 1784, —	4866	950	5816
Ditto in 1790, —	5194	1000	6194

When it is considered, that the manufacture of canvas, since the peace of 1783, has been, in a great measure, given up, and, that trade, since that time, has not been very brisk in Montrose, it will be acknowledged, that the population in this town, has, of late, increased, more than might have been expected. Gloomy speculatists predicted, at the conclusion of the American war, that many would emigrate from this corner. A very few did emigrate, and these few have given no encouragement to others to follow their example.

*Public Buildings.*—The public buildings in Montrose most worthy of notice, are, 1. The old town-house, which is situated in the middle of the principal street. A part was fitted up for the grammar-school, and a part for the public prison. As the rooms and cells in the prison were too few, and ill-contrived, this house is repairing, in such a manner, that men and women, debtors and criminals, may have separate apartments, corresponding with their station and their crimes.

2. The new town-house, built in 1763, towards the south end of Murray-street, with its front directed to the Port. It is constructed according to the modern taste, with rooms, where the magistrates assemble, &c.

3. The Parish Church.—The old church of Montrose was a Gothic structure, rendered very gloomy and irregular, by large additions to the galleries and to the building itself. It was originally, however, venerable and well proportioned.

portioned. Having fallen into decay, the heritors, town-council, kirk-session, trades, and proprietors of seats, agreed unanimously to build another in its stead; the dimensions of which, are 98 by 65 feet over walls. The plan has been formed with deliberation;—it has been compared with modern churches;—it has been submitted to the inspection of some skilful architects;—and, it is to be hoped, will be executed in such a manner as to merit public approbation\*.

4. The Episcopal chapel.—This chapel was founded in 1722. It is an ornament to the town, and was even praised by the author of the Rambler, in his Tour through Scotland, as a neat and cleanly place of public worship.

5. Public Schools.—In this town there are a great number of private schools, in which all ordinary branches of male and female education are taught; but the public schools, patronised by the town-council and kirk-session, are three. The grammar-school, in which Latin alone is taught. The writing-school, in which, besides writing, are

\* It is but justice to the inhabitants of Montrose, to take this opportunity of stating the very liberal and Christian-like manner, in which the different sects have uniformly conducted themselves to each other. The town-council and session, lately petitioned the managers of the Episcopal and Anti-burgher churches, that the members of the established church might have the liberty of enjoying divine service in their meeting-houses, till the parish-church was rebuilt. They, and their congregations, not only granted this petition, but declared, in the handsomest manner, their willingness to submit to considerable inconveniencies, in order to accommodate their fellow Christians to their wishes. It is not long since the Anti-burgher congregation applied for liberty, to have their minister ordained in the established church, as their own was repairing at that time, and liberty was readily granted. Thus they have soon found an opportunity to express their gratitude in kind, and given occasion to remark, that a generous action may meet with a return in a way little expected.



are also taught arithmetic and book-keeping. The English school, in which are taught the reading of English, according to the new method, and the principles of English grammar. Some of the masters of the public schools, teach, in private, other branches, such as French, mathematics, geography and music. The public schools were formerly in different rooms in the middle of the town; but, two years ago, very handsome and spacious schools were built, in an open area in the links, where the boys and girls enjoy salubrious air, and have ample scope for amusement, without endangering either their health or their morals.

6. The Public Library.—Some literary gentlemen, eager to read a variety of publications, not to be had in the place, and which they could not conveniently purchase, resolved to enter into a society, for the purpose of forming a public library. It was begun in 1785, and is, at this time, in as flourishing a condition as could well be expected. Such institutions, evidently tend to increase knowledge, and to diffuse a taste for learning, and therefore ought, as much as possible, to be encouraged\*.

7. The Lunatic Hospital.—This is one of the most useful and patriotic institutions belonging to this or any other town. Before it was built, the magistrates were frequently under the necessity of confining lunatics in the common prison, situated in the middle of the town, where they were liable to have their disorders increased, by the publicity of the place of their confinement, and often exhibited the most shocking scenes of blasphemy and desperation. At length,

\* The public teachers of youth and students at the universities, have the benefit of the library *gratis*. Convinced of its great utility, several gentlemen have already presented to the library valuable books, and some have presented works of their own composition.

length, in 1779, Mrs Carnegie of Pittarrow, justly celebrated for her public spirit, suggested the plan of a lunatic hospital, to be erected in the links near Montrose. By her influence, a petition, signed by some persons of distinction in the town and neighbourhood, was presented to the magistrates, requesting their aid for erecting such an hospital; and soon after, a subscription was opened for that purpose, which succeeded beyond expectation. Sixty nine lunatics have already been admitted into the house, some from places so distant as Perth, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, of whom 14 have been cured, 6 removed greatly better, 21 died, and 28 remain in the hospital\*.

#### *Constitution*

\* It is proposed, as soon as the funds will permit, to fit up a sick ward; in the mean time, 57 patients, labouring under dangerous diseases, have been taken into the hospital, many of whom required chirurgical operations. Twenty six have been cured, 10 relieved, 8 removed incurable, 10 died, and 6 are under cure; 1324 out-patients have received advice and medicine *gratis*, 410 of whom have been cured, 389 relieved, and 2 died. Such was the state of the hospital at the beginning of 1790. As it was erected by subscription, it has been hitherto supported by funds annually granted by the magistrates of Montrose, by collections at the church and Episcopal chapel, by a collection through the Synod of Angus and Mearns, and the voluntary donations and contributions of the humane and liberal. Several lunatics from the parish of Montrose have been admitted, *gratis*, and, from other parishes, whence liberal contributions have been received, at so low a rate as L. 8, L. 7, L. 6, and even L. 5 a-year. But, without further liberal donations, and the continuance of annual subscriptions, the funds must be inadequate to support the institution, in such a manner as its friends would wish. The medical gentlemen of Montrose, give both advice and attendance *gratis*; and the treasurer is equally disinterested. The humanity and frugality of the master and mistress, and the order and cleanliness of the house, merit the highest commendation. Several pieces of coarse sheeting have been made, from the yarn spun by the lunatics in their lucid intervals. At such times, they are also occasionally employed in painting, reading, gardening, knitting stockings, spinning, and working with the needle. A piece of painting, in the mistress's room, done by one of the lunatics, is, as such, a considerable curiosity.

*Constitution and Income of the Borough.*—Montrose is a royal borough, united with those of Aberdeen, Bervie, Brechin, and Arbroath, in chusing a member of Parliament. The corporation has continued in nearly the same state, for about 450 years. It is composed of 19 members, *viz.* the provost, 3 bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, hospital master, 10 merchant councillors, and 2 councillors from the trades. The old council elect the new, and they may continue themselves, in office, as long as they please to hold together. The constitution requires no change of merchant councillors yearly; but the 2 trades councillors must be changed every two years. They may, however, be succeeded by their predecessors. The revenues of the town are not very ample, and have been considerably burdened by building an addition to the pier, making a new market for butchers meat, erecting lamps, improving public walks, subscribing to public works, building new schools, and augmenting the number of teachers and their salaries, &c.; but they are managed with care; and if nothing unforeseen happens, will receive an addition not many years hence. The provost has L. 40 yearly, allowed him to defray the expences of making burgeses, and entertainments on the King's birthday, or at the election of magistrates, &c. That appears to be a very economical measure, as probably, more than double that sum would be insufficient to defray these expences, without such a regulation.

*Commerce and Manufactures.*—As the harbour of Montrose is the most commodious of any, between the river Tay and the bay of Cromarty, the trade of this town, has, for a long time, been considerable. In the beginning of this century, and till about the year 1744, Montrose was distinguished by its shipping. It was also famous for a  
market

market for linen yarn, which was brought from all parts of the counties of Angus and Mearns, and sold here, whence it was sent to London and Manchester. A great market, called Rood fair, was held here in the beginning of May, which was formerly much resorted to, but is now much on the decline. About 50 years ago smuggling was much practised here, and indeed almost every where on the coast of Scotland, and scarcely any sort of manufacture was carried on.

The first manufacture, of any consequence, that of canvas, was erected here by a company in 1745. It was carried on, for many years, to a great extent, and answered well. Soon after, it was followed by another company on a large scale, and afterwards by many smaller ones, particularly during the last war. As the same thing happened in other places in the kingdom, this article was so much overdone, at the peace of 1783, that all the great companies here, and most of the smaller ones, gave up, turned their working-houses into dwelling-houses, and sold off their machinery and utensils, &c. Little, therefore, is now attempted in that line, compared with what was done before.

During this period, two different companies set up a large manufacture of coloured and white thread, and were followed by others on a smaller scale. One of the larger companies has given up; but the other continues, and has found it, as yet, a very profitable branch of business. It is at present the most considerable article of manufacture in the town. Some brown sheetings and Osnaburghs are also made here, and a pretty considerable trade is carried on, in the commission line, in Osnaburghs and yarn sent to Glasgow. The cotton manufactures have been lately attempted, and various smaller articles, as stockings, &c. are manufactured. There is a good tannery, and rope-works belonging to different companies.

**This**

This town has been long distinguished for making and exporting excellent malt, and for making good malt liquor of all kinds. A public brewery, especially for small beer, has been lately set up. But private families, in general, brew for their own use. The strong ale made here, is esteemed, by good judges, equal to the Burton ale.

To Montrose, there belong, commonly, about 16 or 18 fishermen, but many of them are old, and for some years past they have had very indifferent success. Haddocks are just now remarkably rare, and consequently extremely dear. The mussels belonging to this place are excellent, both for bait and eating, and they are never dangerous. They are to be found in great plenty, all over the river and at the harbour. Oysters have been laid in a deep part of the river, to try if they will succeed there, but a sufficient time, for a full trial of the experiment, has not as yet elapsed. Incredible numbers of lobsters were, some years ago, taken on this coast. Penant, in his tour (1772,) p. 2, mentions, that 60,000 or 70,000 were, at that time, sent annually to London; but that branch of commerce is now laid aside, as not sufficiently advantageous. Quantities of white fish, as cod, turbot, &c. might be taken on the great sand banks off this coast. The Long forties extend parallel thereto; and beyond that, lie, Montrose pits, (see Hammond's chart of the North Sea), a great bank with six pits in it. If we reckon from the surface of the water, they are from 40 to 100 fathoms deep. Those banks swarm with fish, but are nevertheless much neglected. Attempts have, indeed, been made for some years past, but unsuccessfully, owing to the misconduct of the persons employed.

There are at present 3 ships, belonging to Montrose, concerned in the whale-fishing business. They generally go to Davis Straits. The trade is very precarious, but they have, upon the whole, been more successful than many others.

At

At the harbour of Montrose, there is a good wet dock, where ships are built and repaired, not only for this, but for other ports.

In 1783, a plan was adopted, and patronised by several gentlemen and merchants of Montrose, for insuring ships and goods at sea. It has been carried on ever since. As there is also in this place a branch of the office at Dundee, for insuring houses and furniture against fire, most of the property, belonging to the inhabitants, may be insured in the town itself.

The port of Montrose, which comprehends within its bounds, all the coast, from the Tod-head on the north, to the lights of Tay on the south, had, in 1789, the following number of ships, and quantity of tonnage belonging to it.

	<i>Number of Ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
Montrose and Ferryden,	53	3543
Arbroath, - -	29	1539
Johnshaven, - -	12	457
Gourdon, - - -	6	192
East and West Havens,	3	118
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Ships,	103	Total Tonnage, 5849*

*Duty*

\* The principal articles imported from foreign parts, in the year 1789, into the port of Montrose, including Arbroath, were nearly as follows :

Ashes pearl, -	14 tons.	Iron, -	166 Tons.
Ashes wood, -	27 ditto.	Clover seed, -	17 ditto.
Flax, -	578 ditto.	Whale blubber,	299 ditto,
Hemp, -	69 ditto,	Whale fins <i>alias</i>	
		Whale-bone,	14 ditto.
		Fir timber,	1479 ditto.
			Battes,

*Duty on Coals.*—The duty on Scotch and English coal, paid in Scotland, amounts to about L. 11,000 a-year. Of this sum, the districts belonging to the custom-houses of Aberdeen and Montrose, pay the principal part. In the year 1788, Montrose paid L. 2285, and Aberdeen L. 4735. The heavy duty imposed on Scotch coal, carried coastwise by sea, begins at the Red-head, between this and Arbroath. Montrose is, of consequence, the first town to the northward of the Frith of Forth, where it is paid. It is a duty undoubtedly impolitic, partial and oppressive. It is impolitic, as it discourages population and industry in the north of Scotland. It is partial and oppressive, as the richest and most populous parts

Battens,	-	-	25 hundred.	Spruce beer,	76 barrels.
Deals,	-	-	172 ditto.	Tar,	21 lasts.
Lintfeed,	-	-	298 quarters.		

Besides sundry other inferior species of wood, and miscellaneous articles of smaller value. The principal articles exported in 1789, from this port, including Arbroath and Johnhaven, of which no separate account is kept, are nearly as follow :

Barley and beer,	-	-	-	-	6971 quarters.
Malt,	-	-	-	-	8287 ditto.
Sail-cloth,	-	-	-	-	5561 ells.

Besides small quantities of oats, oat-meal, beer-meal, wheat, flour, tow, &c.

Salmon shipped at Montrose.

In 1788,	-	-	-	-	2200 kitts.
— 89	-	-	-	-	2000 ditto.
— 90	-	-	-	-	2500 ditto.

The quantity of fresh and kippered salmon, sold here, cannot be easily ascertained.

In the year 1789, besides other goods, too various and numerous to admit of specification, there were brought coastwise, into this port and its creeks, from England and the Frith of Forth,

Great coals,	-	-	-	17,446 tons.
Small coals,	-	-	-	2,490 London chalders.
Culm,	-	-	-	3,577 ditto.
Cinders,	-	-	-	375 ditto.

parts of Scotland pay no part of it, and the most remote and poorest parts of the kingdom pay the whole. A grievance of this kind, merits the attention of Parliament, and ought to be redressed, by abolishing the tax altogether, or substituting an equivalent in its stead on some other article, to be levied throughout all Scotland. Such a tax would be the meanest trifle to the kingdom at large, could be grudged by none, who had any regard to substantial justice, and would deliver this part of the country from a grievous burden, without the removal of which, neither its commerce nor its agriculture can prosper.

*Poor.*—The number of paupers in this place is very great. This is owing in part to the many charitable institutions in Montrose;—to the character its inhabitants have long maintained of kindness to strangers, and liberality to the poor;—and partly, indeed, to the different manufactures, to which men advanced in life, and reduced in circumstances, repair for bread to themselves and numerous families, and who, within a few years, become a burden on the public.

Of the funds allotted for the use of the poor, those belonging to the church-sessions are the largest, and managed, in general, with the greatest impartiality; without any respect to persons, station, employment, or principle, religious or political. The monthly pensioners amount at present to about 168. Besides these, occasional supplies are ordered for others at the monthly meetings. Such persons as, in the interval, are reduced to temporary distress, apply to the elder or church-warden, belonging to the division of the town or country parish, where they reside, who recommends them to the moderator of the session. Upon this, the moderator issues out an order to the treasurer, called a *precept*, to give



them a supply, seldom exceeding half a crown. The passing traveller, who is well recommended, as an object deserving the compassion of the public, receives also occasional supply, upon producing to the treasurer the moderator's precept. These occasional supplies, during the interval of the meetings of the session, amount to from L. 30 to L. 40 a-year.

A tolerable idea of the nature and extent of these funds, now and formerly, may be deduced from a brief detail of the income and expenditure, towards the conclusion of the last century, and at the present time.

Income, from 1st February 1685, to ditto 1686.

Collected at the church-doors, -	L. 73	5	4½
Received from William Durrow, -	19	5	7½
———— for the mortcloth and bells, -	18	6	6
One sixteenth part of the loadening of the ship Elizabeth, belonging to the session, -	15	15	11½
Free-will offerings, by merchants and masters of vessels, -	12	2	8
Interest of money for one year, at 6 per cent.	11	13	4
Collected, at dispensing the Lord's Supper, -	10	12	5½
———— for the relief of James Ogilvie, prisoner with the Turks, -	6	13	4
Collections at sea, -	8	7	2
Received from James Gentleman, -	2	3	10
Fornication penalties, -	2	1	8
For Rossie's daughter's interment in the church,	1	13	4
For the clerk's wife's interment in ditto, -	1	13	4
Trifling articles, -	2	7	6
<b>Total income, -</b>	<b>L. 186</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

Expenditure,

Expenditure, from 1st February 1685, to ditto 1686.

Monthly pensioners, to the number of about 62,	L. 77	5	8½
Orphan's board, cesss, church officers dues, &c. &c. &c. Ministers stipend from the ses- sion's lands, session-clerk's fees, &c.	-	21	19 5½
Given to fundry poor, by the session's orders, at different times,	-	19	8 2½
The minister's precepts to the treasurer,	-	17	18 7½
Given for the relief of James Ogilvie, the mo- ney collected for that end,	-	6	13 4
For repairing the one sixteenth part of the ship Elizabeth,	-	3	14 4
For repairing the church,	-	1	8 4
For a pair of jogs, lead, and putting them in,	-	0	4 1½

Total expenditure,	-	L. 148	12 1½
Total income,	-	186	2 1

Balance in treasurer's hands, L. 37 9 11½

Income from 1st January 1789, to 1st January 1790.

Collected at the church door,	-	94	6 3½
Received for land rents,	-	73	0 0
Collected, at dispensing the Lord's Supper, in May and November,	-	39	9 9
Received for burials, and liberty to erect monu- ments,	-	26	10 2½
House-rents,	-	23	13 2
Seat-rents in the session's loft, and the body of the church,	-	6	5 0
Received, out of the effects of such as died, when supported by the session,	-	1	0 0½

Total income, - L. 264 4 5½

Expenditure,

Expenditure, from 1st January 1789, to 1st January 1790.

Monthly pensioners, to the number of about 168, - - -	L. 89 6 6
The minister's precepts to the treasurer, -	32 6 9
Orphans board, and clothing to ditto, -	30 4 7½
Schoolmaster's salaries, and church-officer's fees,	18 8 4¼
To the lunatic hospital, - - -	14 0 0
Distributed to the poor at November sacrament,	11 0 0
Incident charges, - - -	10 6 3
Interest of money borrowed, -	6 14 8
Paid for waiting on people in distress, .	6 7 0
To poor children restrained from begging, -	6 6 0
Church-servants fees, and expences at both sa- craments, - - -	4 17 6
Minister's stipend and cefs, -	5 13 10
Repairing the church, -	4 2 5½
Coffins given to poor persons by the session, .	3 11 6
Treasurer's fees, - - -	3 0 0
Communion elements, at the November sacra- ment, . . .	2 13 0
	<hr/>
Total expenditure, -	L. 248 18 3½
Total income, -	264 4 5½
	<hr/>
Balance in the treasurer's hands,	L. 15 6 0

The hospital funds, which are under the direction of the town-council, have been so much improved, that they amount, at present, to about L. 108 Sterling a-year. They are restricted, entirely, to the relief of decayed burghers. Mortified money, to the amount of about L. 1600 Sterling, was left by John Milne, Esq; of Old Montrose, Baillie Aughteronie, Mrs Grahame, Provost Thomas Christie, &c. under the direction of the magistrates and ministers, &c. The in-  
interest

terest is distributed, at particular seasons of the year, among the poor at large, belonging to this parish. The family of Hedderwick, mortified a small sum to the poor at large, both in the town and country parish, and another to purchase for the poor in the country parish, Bibles and New Testaments.

The failor's box is not rich, as many of the mariners scruple to pay the dues. It affords, however, to the widows, &c. of such as are connected with it, occasional supplies to pay house-rent, buy coals, &c. Shipwrecked failors, travelling to their own homes, if their story is judged to be genuine, may also expect some charity from this fund.

The trades funds were formerly considerable; but some years ago, they were more than exhausted by a ruinous law-suit. By persevering economy, and some donations, they are at present emerging out of debt.

As, notwithstanding all these funds, and the generosity of many individuals, there are some poor persons, belonging to Montrose, who could not subsist without applying to the public at large; the magistrates, and church-session, meet at a particular time of the year, and give out badges to such as they know to be under the necessity of begging. These licensed beggars go through the town the first day of every month, but are not allowed to beg at any other time, nor to go beyond the bounds of the parish. They are supplied so liberally, that they receive nothing from any of the public funds, except when lying on a sick-bed. Their number, at present, is about 40.

At the same time, as idleness is very pernicious to morals, especially to the morals of the youth, the council and church-session give a monthly pension to some orphans, and other poor children, to restrain them from begging, to which they would otherwise be obliged to have recourse.

Convinced,

Convinced, also, of the importance of an early Christian education, the church-session send a number of poor children to school, and pay for their education, till they are able, at least, to read the scriptures. There are, at present, about 50 such on the roll. They are at different schools, which are visited annually, that their progress in learning may be ascertained.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are few people in Montrose, who do not, occasionally, at least, attend some place of public worship. The great body of the people are presbyterians. Hitherto, there has been only one church belonging to the establishment; but it is large, and much crowded. The charge is collegiate. The stipend of the senior clergyman, is in money L. 48 : 14 : 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ , with 48 bolls 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  firloths 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pecks of bear, 55 bolls 2 firloths 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pecks meal, and 3 bolls 2 firloths of wheat, but without a manse or glebe. The stipend of the second minister arises from an annuity, laid on houses within the royalty, by act of Parliament, at the rate of 5 *per cent.* of yearly rent. It amounts, at present, to upwards of L. 100; and if levied with strictness, would considerably exceed the stipend of the first charge.

The following, is as accurate an account, of the numbers belonging to the religious sects, in this place, as could well be obtained.

	<i>Souls.</i>
Persons, young and old, belonging to the Established Church, - - -	4774
Ditto, belonging the Church of England, - - -	720
Ditto, belonging to the Secession, including Antiburghers and Burghers - - -	376
Ditto, belonging to the Episcopal Church of Scotland, - - - -	134
	<hr/>
Carried forward,	6004

	Brought forward, 6004
Persons belonging to two sects of Independents,	92
Anabaptists, - - - -	40
Bereans of different kinds, - - - -	20
Unitarians, - - - -	10
Quakers, - - - -	4
Persons unconnected with any particular religious Society, - - - -	24
	—
	In all, 6194

Though the religious sects in Montrose are thus numerous, and persons belonging to three or four different kinds, are sometimes to be found in the same family, they live, in general, in great harmony. About the beginning, and towards the middle of the present century, religious zeal, carried to an extreme, produced very bad effects; and, if the clergy were not disposed, to go as great a length as their hearers, they were persecuted much by anonymous letters, threatenings of prosecution, and evil speaking; but, in this respect, the times are happily changed. Some bigots may be found every where, but here they are much reduced in number, and are daily diminishing. The clergy belonging to the different sects, are on a friendly footing; the people, in general, attend public worship very regularly, and behave with becoming decency in the house of God. There are few places, where, upon the whole, the Sunday is better kept; though it must be confessed, there is, in this respect, a falling off here, as well as elsewhere.

*Amusements.*—The people in Montrose have amusements of various kinds, both in summer and winter. Social visits take place at all seasons, and such recreations as commonly attend

attend them. The gentlemen hold a monthly club, which is well attended by persons of distinction, both in the town and neighbourhood. During summer, many go to the wells, or retire to the country to enjoy rural felicity. Such as remain at home are frequently entertained with exhibitions calculated to gratify curiosity, or to increase knowledge. Playing at the golf is a favourite and wholesome amusement. There is excellent ground for this purpose, and also for walking; as a large part of the links is level, and dry at all seasons. Playing at bowls and billiards is also frequently practised. Cards, sometimes, engross too much time. In the proper season, some retire to the hills for shooting, and their friends at home judge of their success, by the presents they receive. During the winter season, there is an assembly every three weeks. It is conducted with the greatest decorum, and none but proper company are admitted. Actors occasionally perform here, and undoubtedly meet with too much encouragement, though their mode of living is such, that they generally depart in poverty, and leave debts behind them. At Christmas, and the new year, the opulent burghers begin to feast with their friends, and go a round of visits, which takes up the space of many weeks. Upon such occasions, the gravest is expected to be merry, and to join in a cheerful song. Instrumental music has been, for many years past, much neglected. Public or private concerts are rare. This is the more to be regretted, as music is a very innocent, cheerful, and rational amusement, and if more cultivated, might divert the attention from other objects, which injure the health, or destroy the morals of the people.

*Conclusion.*—Montrose is justly accounted one of the first provincial towns for its size in Scotland, or perhaps in Great Britain. It receives, on account of its neat and  
cleanly

cleanly appearance, many encomiums from strangers. The houses, if not elegant, are, on the whole, well built and regular; but, like those of Flanders, their gable ends are often turned towards the street. With one or two exceptions, they are now all of stone, and many of them covered with blue slates. In the principal part of the town, each family possesses a separate house. But beyond the port, and at the shore, the case is otherwise. Hence it is more populous, than a stranger would be apt to imagine. As it is a town more distinguished by the residence of persons of opulence and fashion, than of commerce and industry, and often, but especially in time of war, full of soldiers and sailors, the vices, which predominate in these dissipated times, are not uncommon. But, on the whole, the character of the people is respectable, possessing a degree of public spirit, of hospitality to strangers, and of charity to the poor, rarely to be equalled.



## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF MOULIN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER STEWART.**Name, Situation, Extent and Surface.*

THE ancient and modern appellation of the parish is Moulin; so called from a small village, where the church stands. That word is probably Celtic, like all the other names of places in its neighbourhood, but the etymology is uncertain. A small lake once stood in the neighbourhood of the village, and has been converted, by means of draining, into meadow ground. The word Moulin seems to have some reference to this lake; perhaps it may be *maoth linne*, a smooth pool; or *magb linne*, Pool-field. This parish is situated in the county of Perth, presbytery of Dunkeld, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, extending from N. E. to S. W. about thirteen miles in length. It may properly be divided into two districts, the Atholl, and the Strathardle district; the former lies on the banks of the rivers Tummel and Garry, which meet within the bounds of the parish. —The latter includes Glenbriarachan and Glenfernat, (which are watered respectively by the Briarachan and the Arnot) and a part of Strathardle, so called from the river  
Ardle,

Ardle, formed by the junction of the two last mentioned streams. These two divisions of the parish, are separated from each other, by a hill of inconsiderable height, and about four miles over. They lie in a direction nearly parallel to each other. The Strathardle division extends in length about 7 miles from N. W. to S. E. and in breadth  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The length of the Atholl division, from N. W. to S. E. is 7 miles, its breadth varies from 4 to 6 miles.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The greater part of the parish is mountainous, with several high and abrupt precipices, though there are no mountains of extraordinary height. The hills are almost wholly covered with heath. Those of Glenbriarachan and Glenfernat, yield the most grafs; affording pasture for several flocks of sheep. The arable land is, in general, sloping, but not very steep.—In the Atholl district the soil is tolerably deep and fertile. The fields round the village of Moulin, a space of a mile and a half long, and half a mile broad, are among the most fertile in the Highlands of Perthshire; the soil in the Strathardle district is shallower, and yields lighter crops. The air is dry and extremely healthy.

Chronical distempers are very rare. Sudden cold or heat, or violent exercise, sometimes occasions fevers. The itch, which used to be very frequent, has, in a great measure, disappeared, owing, chiefly, to cleanliness of clothing. Destructive epidemical distempers are also extremely rare. Inoculation for the small-pox, which is beginning to be practised among the lower classes, is almost always successful, in preventing the fatal effects of that disease.

*Rivers.*

*Rivers.*—None of the rivers are large, nor is it possible to render them navigable; the channels are often rocky, and very uneven; in some places deep, in others shallow. Great quantities of small stones, or of sand, are carried along by every flood, so that the depth is perpetually varying; and the rivers frequently shift their beds. The flat meadows on the banks of the Briarachan are frequently overflowed, and, in winter, often covered with water. A fall on the river Tummel, called the Lin of Tummel, about 8 feet high, is remarkable only for the quantity of water, and the force with which it is thrown over the rock; and for affording a convenient pool for catching fish. The only lake is Loch Broom, situated in a hill on the confines of Moulin and Logierait parishes.

*Fish.*—The rivers contain trout, eel, par, minnow, but of no superior quality. Loch Broom has abundance of trout, superior in size and flavour to the river trout. These kinds of fish are caught with the rod for sport, or for the use of private families, but never for sale. Salmon are found in the Tummel and Garry; the fishing continues from the beginning or middle of March, to the middle of August. The fish are almost all bought up for the London market, at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  d. or 7d. the lb. till the first of May; then at 4d. or  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. the lb. The salmon are most in season in the middle of spring, and degenerate through the summer months. They are caught, for the most part, with net and bait; sometimes with a kind of spear, armed with three or five prongs, barbed at the point, which is plunged into the fish, while it lies motionless in still water. Sometimes they are taken in a kind of large wicker basket, placed so as to intercept their progress up the river.

river. The rent of the salmon fishing on the Tummel and Garry, within the bounds of the parish, is L. 42.

*Minerals.*—There is abundance of limestone in the parish, but very little is burnt into lime, on account of the dearth of fuel. There is a rock on a hill, from which mill-stones have been sometimes hewn, and rolled down the hill on an axis; the stone is of that kind, called by the country people, crow's spur. Several pieces of granite, of a beautiful kind, have been lately found.

*Animals.*—The quadrupeds are horses, cows, sheep, swine, dogs, cats, wild cats, pole-cats, weazels, martins, foxes, badgers, rabbits, roes, deer, hares in abundance, a species of hare of a light blue colour in summer, and perfectly white in winter. The fowls are common hens, geese, ducks, pigeons, wood pigeons, jays, woodcocks, magpies, rails, plovers, herons, owls, partridges, muirfowls, black cocks, crows, hawks, ravens, kites, eagles, and all the kinds of singing birds common in the Highlands of Scotland. A kind of brown hawk, which nestles in a rock, half a mile from the village of Moulin, is much esteemed by falconers, who come from different parts of Scotland, and even of England, to carry away the young ones. The cuckoo appears in the woods about the end of April, or beginning of May, and disappears about the beginning of July; swallows appear, and breed in May and June, and disappear the middle of September. The woodcock comes about the middle of September, and goes away the middle of March.

*Population.*—By an exact enumeration made in September 1791, the number of persons in the parish was found to be

*Males.*

	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Unmar.	506	- -	584	Under 8 yrs	149	143
Married	272	- -	272	Above 8 yrs	668	789
Widowers	39	Widows	76			
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	817		932		817	932
						817
						<hr/>

Total, 1749

The annual average of births for the last 7 years, as taken from the parish register, is 46. The average number of children, produced by each marriage, may be about 6. The return made, from hence, to Dr Webster about 1755, was 2109 souls, and the average of births from 1751 to 1757, inclusive, was 64; so that, the population, it would appear, has considerably declined within the last 40 years. The chief reason, seems to be, that many corn farms, (particularly one whole glen, Glenfernat, which contained upwards of 20 families), have been denuded of their inhabitants, and converted into sheep-walks and grazings. Probably the present high rate of wages may have had some effect, in decreasing the population, by obliging the tenants to keep fewer servants than formerly. To this it may be added, that numbers of young men and women, from 11 years of age to 28 or 30, leave the parish yearly, to go to service, or to learn trades in the low countries; some of whom, however, occasionally return to settle in their native place.

*Number of Heritors, Farmers, &c.*—The number of heritors is 14, of whom 7 reside constantly in the parish, and other 3 occasionally. The number of farmers, ascertained by survey, is 194; of these 89 possess a plough-gang,

105 half a plough-gang; the families of the former generally consist of the tenant, his wife, 4 children, and a servant, in all 623 persons; and the families of the latter, may be reckoned to consist of man, wife, and 4 children, or 630 individuals. There are in the parish 28 weavers, 10 tailors, 8 carpenters, 7 shoemakers, 6 shop-keepers, 5 blacksmiths, 5 masons, 4 flaxdressers, 4 coopers, 3 sievemakers, 1 dyer, in all 81. Of labouring servants, there are 17 males, and 18 females, in gentlemen's families; the number of both sexes, among the tenants, may be estimated at 89, as tenants who, hold a plough-gang, generally keep one servant, who is of the female sex, if any of the sons are able to assist their father in managing the farm; but if otherwise, the tenant is obliged to keep a male servant, and, in that case, can scarcely afford to keep a female servant also. There are in the parish, 1 clergyman of the established church, 1 student of divinity, and 5 gentlemen's families, containing 46 persons, including servants. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church.

*Houses, &c.*—The number of inhabited houses is 440, consequently the number of persons in each house is, about 4, at an average; but, it is to be observed, that many are possessed by widows and widowers, who have no family, and by unmarried tradesmen. There are no houses uninhabited, nor any farms unoccupied. New houses are frequently a-building, especially near the highways, and in the villages; and small farms are often broken down into single acres, to accommodate tradesmen or shop-keepers with ground for gardens and sown grass. There are two villages in the parish; one called Pitlochry, situated on the military road, containing about 30 families; the other  
Moulin,

Moulin, three quarters of a mile from Pitlochry, containing 37 families.

*Natural Productions.*—There are some considerable oak and birch woods on the lower grounds, along the sides of the rivers. Some oak bark, for tanning leather, is yearly sold, and, next to linen yarn, is the principal commodity which the parish exports. The soil is, in general, favourable to the growth of forest and fruit trees. Some plantations of larch and Scotch firs have been made, on the hills and moorish grounds, and are still going on, particularly on one estate, where there are 400 acres planted. The other plantations, may be about 300 acres. Oak woods, within the parish, are worth, at a cutting, L. 4500. Birch, about L. 500.

The ordinary crops raised by the farmers are, oats, bear, flax, and potatoes. Turnips, and clover, with rye-grass, are cultivated by a few gentlemen. Small quantities of rye and pease are also raised; but no wheat nor beans. Esculent plants of all kinds are cultivated with success. Along the banks of the Tummel, where there is good shelter from the north, the climate is favourable, and vegetation usually very forward. In the Strathardle division, where there is less shelter, the season is more backward. Inclosures are few, but they are multiplying yearly.

*Crops.*—The number of plough-gangs, in the hands of tenants, is about  $141\frac{1}{2}$ , and in those of gentlemen,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ; reckoning 13 acres of arable land to each plough-gang, the whole number of acres in cultivation, will be about 1950. Oats are sown in April; then lintseed and potatoes; bear is sown between the middle, and the end of May. The time of harvest

harvest is extremely variable, beginning sometimes the end of August, and sometimes not till the 10th of October. The parish supplies itself with provisions, except an inconsiderable quantity of oat-meal imported from the low country, but, which is not equal to the tenth part, of what used to be imported 20 or 25 years ago, before potatoes were so generally cultivated. The quantity of bear, sold in the parish to whisky distillers, is probably greater than the quantity of meal imported; so that the quantity of grain, raised in the parish, is greater than the quantity of meal consumed in it. No articles of provision are exported, except mutton and beef; and oat-meal and cheese are the only articles of that kind imported. Considerable quantities of marl have been found in different parts of the parish, which have been used in farming by some gentlemen, but rarely by the tenants.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—The number of ploughs in the parish is 141, belonging to tenants, and 5 belonging to gentlemen. The ploughs are rather small and clumsy, drawn by four horses yoked a-breast, and driven by a man, who holds the horses by the halters, and walks backwards. The gentlemen, and two or three tenants, make use of two-horse ploughs, driven by the man who holds the plough. No waggons. A farmer, of the superior order, has usually two pair of pretty good cart wheels, 40 or 42 inches in diameter, and two bodies of carts fit for any ordinary kind of load; also two pairs of lighter wheels, employed only in carrying fuel, or dung to the field. He has four cart bodies, made of close boards, for carrying dung; and as many for carrying peat, made with a light open frame interwoven with twigs. The whole number of cart-



wheels may be estimated at 581 pairs. There is one four-wheeled chaise in the parish.

*Rent of Land.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4026 : 3 : 10 : Scotch ; the real rent has been estimated at nine times that sum, or somewhat more than L. 3000 Sterling. Single acres of good arable land, in the neighbourhood of the villages of Moulin and Pitlochry, pay from 30s. to 34s. of yearly rent. A field of good arable land may pay a rent of 22s. the acre. Ordinary land is let at the rate of 17s. the acre. The rent of infield pasture ground is the same with that of arable. A horse's grazing on hill ground, is valued at 5s. a month ; a cow's at 2s. 6d. A plough-gang consisting, at an average, of 13 acres of arable land, and hill ground sufficient for pasturing 4 horses and 10 cows, pays L. 17 of yearly rent.—A third part of the landed property has been sold within the last thirty years, but it is not often changing. The average price of those lands may have been about 30 years purchase ; but they now yield in general, a rent equal to 5 or 6 *per cent* on the purchase-money.

*Prices of Provisions, Fuel, &c.*—Beef is 3 d. the lb. but very seldom sold in the parish. Veal 2 d. the lb. mutton 3 d. and pork 4 d. ; a live goose 2 s. the carcase stripped of the feathers, &c. 1 s. 6 d. ; ducks 9 d. each, hens 6 d. ; chickens 2 d. or 3 d. each ; eggs, 2 d. a dozen ; milk 2 d. the Scotch pint ; butter 8 d. the lb. of 22 oz. ; cheese 5 s. the stone of 22 lb. English. At an average, barley sells at 14 s. oats at 14 s. and pease at 12 s. the boll, wheat measure. Wool unscoured, 6 s. the stone ; weighing from 20 to 24 lbs. Dutch. Flax, when sold growing, L. 1 for each peck sown ; lint, bruised and scutched in the mill, 13 s. 4 d. the stone, of 20 lbs. Dutch. The fuel commonly made use of is peat, turf, and heath ;  
sometimes

sometimes the smaller branches of oak, when stripped of the bark; a cart of peats, weighing about 5 cwt. is sold at 1 s. 2 d.

*Prices of Labour.*—A day-labourer's wages at ordinary work are 6 d.; at hard labour 8 d.; a taylor gets 6 d. a carpenter 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d.; a mason 1 s. 2 d. These wages are given besides victuals. If victuals are not given, an addition of 4 d. or 4½ d. is made to the wages. A mill-wright has 2 s. the day without victuals. The wages of a servant man, employed in husbandry, are, from L. 6, 15 s. to L. 7. the year; of a woman employed in husbandry, or as a domestic servant, from L. 2, 15 s. to L. 3. A man engaged during the harvest season, from the time the corn begins to be cut down, till it is stacked and thatched, gets 21 s.; a woman, during the same season, 15 s.

*Expences of a Labourer's Family* \*.—The following is an estimate of the expences and earnings of a labouring man, his wife,

\* Prices of labour, &c. between the years 1743 and 1756, authenticated by written documents.

1743. Wages of a man-servant for a year,	L. 1 13 0
Wages of a woman-servant	0 16 6
1750. Wages of a man-servant,	1 19 0
1755. Wages of a woman-servant,	0 18 10

These wages were partly in money, partly in different articles of clothing.

1755. A mason's pay for building a dry stone dike of 1½ ells in height, 8 d. the rood, or length of 6 ells.

1755. Oatmeal at 10 s. 8 d. the boll.

1756. Bear at 10 s. the boll.

1756. Shoes, 1 s. 1¼ d. the pair, single soled; 2 s. the pair, double soled. Linen used for shirts by the peasants, 4 d. the yard. Coarse cloth manufactured in the country for men's coats, 1 s. 1¼ d. the yard.

wife, and four children, the eldest under eight years, the youngest an infant. Subsistence per week, 3 pecks of potatoes, at 4 d. 2 pecks of oatmeal, at 11 d. 2 pecks of bear-meal at 7½d. salt, milk, eggs, beer, &c. 6 d.; total 4 s. 7 d. or L. 11 : 18 : 4 the year; from which, deducting 4 weeks subsistence of the man in harvest, at 1 s. 10 d. the week, or 7 s. 7 d. there remains L. 11, 11 s. Rent of house and garden may be estimated at 15 s.; fuel at 20 s.; 12 carts of peat at 1 s.; 8 carts of turf at 8 d.; heath or wood 2 s. 8 d.; soap and blue for washing, at 4 s. 6 d.; and oil for light at 2 s.; total L. 2 : 1 : 6. The alms will dung the garden, and pay the expence of digging and planting it with greens or potatoes. Man's clothing, coat at 5 s. 9 d. vest, at 2 s. 4 d. the lining of the coat and vest, and back of the latter, made out of the wife's old clothes; breeches and hose, 4 s. 2 pairs shoes, 7 s. 2 shirts 6 s. 9½d; also a great coat at 10 s. bonnet at 1 s. and handkerchief at 1 s. 6 d.; these three last articles only once in two years, hence 6 s. 3 d.; total L. 1 : 12 : 1½ the year. Wife's cloathing, gown and petticoats at 16 s. 10¼ d. 2 shifts 5 s. 7½ d. hose 8 d. 1 pair shoes, 4 s. neck handkerchief 2 s. apron 1 s. 6 d. bodice 2 s. 3 d. this last article once in two years; hence 1 s. 1½ d.; total L. 1 : 11 : 9½ the year. Children, 3 pairs shoes, 5 s. jackets 13 s. 2 d. shirts 4 s. 11 d. total L. 1, 3 s. 1 d. Bed clothes, and household furniture are supposed to be provided either before marriage, or soon after it. It is also supposed, that the wife has provided so much body clothes, as will reduce the yearly expence of her own and the childrens clothing one third. Hence the annual expence of clothing the family will be

		L. 3	8 9
Subsistence,	-	-	11 11 0
House-rent, fuel, &c.	-	-	2 1 6
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
Carried forward,	-	L. 17	1 3

	Brought over,	L. 17 1 3
The man earns, in 26 weeks, during spring and summer, at the rate of 6s. the week,	L. 7 16 0	
Four weeks in harvest, (besides victuals), - - -	1 6 0	
Twenty-two weeks in autumn and winter, at 3s. 6d. -	3 17 0	
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
	L. 12 19 0	
The wife earns, by spinning * or otherwise, 1s. the week,	2 12 0	
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
	L. 15 11 0	
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
	Deficiency, -	L. 1 10 3

Although there thus appears to be a deficiency of earnings, after the charges have been estimated in the most frugal, and even scanty manner, and no allowance made for casual expences; yet it is certain, that, in this country, people, who seem to have no livelihood but the fruits of their daily labour, do, by some means or other, bring up families, and even give their children such education as the nearest school affords.

*Manufactures.*—The people are in general industrious. The principal branch of manufacture, carried on in the parish, is the spinning of linen yarn, the staple commodity of the country. In winter, it is the only employment of the women. A woman spins, at an average, 16 cuts the day,

\* A woman, who is a good spinner, and employed in nothing else, may earn 3s. the week; but 1s. is a high enough estimate of the earnings of a woman, who has a family of 2 or 3 young children to take care of.

day, the size of the yarn being ordinarily a spindle or 48 cuts from a pound of lint. The price of a stone of lint from the mill, is, at an average, 13s. 4d.; and this, when dressed or heckled, yields about 11 pounds of lint; the refuse, consisting of tow, backings, &c. being equal in value to the price of dressing. From these 11 pounds of lint, 11 spindles of yarn are spun, which are sold at the average price of 2s. 4d. the spindle, or L. 1 : 5 : 8; the profit on the whole is, therefore, 12s. 4d. or 1s. 1½d. the spindle, which generally takes three days to spin; therefore, the daily earning of a spinner is 4½d. In summer the women spin woollen yarn. Woollen cloths, for common wear, such as hooding for mens coats and waistcoats, tartan for hose, breeches, kilts and plaids, camelot for women's gowns, plaiding for under petticoats and women's hose, are entirely manufactured in the country. The art of spinning with both hands has of late been introduced, and is coming fast into practice.

A fair, held at Moulin the end of February, has always been the principal market for the sale of linen yarn. Hither the weavers and yarn-dealers from different parts of Scotland used to resort, and buy up, for ready money, the yarn which had been spun in the preceding 4 months. But for some years past, the yarn has been bought up, in the course of the winter, by shopkeepers and yarn-dealers in the country, who send it off to their employers in manufacturing towns, so that the quantity sold at the fair is now inconsiderable. The yarn has sold this winter and spring 1791 at 2s. 6d. and 2s. 7d. the spindle, which is reckoned a good price\*. The consequence of yarn selling high is an  
immediate

\* In the present spring 1791, oat-meal sells at 1s. the peck, and linen yarn at 2s. 6d. the spindle. To what straits must the people have been reduced in 1741, when oat-meal sold at 1s. 4d. the peck, and yarn at 1s. the spindle.

immediate rise in the wages of women servants. Should the machines for spinning linen yarn come to be much and successfully used, so as to reduce the price of spinning, that effect will be severely felt in this country. Single women may, perhaps, find employment in some other branches of manufacture; but it does not appear in what other way married women, who must sit always at home with their children, can contribute any thing to the support of their families.

*Exports.*—The principal export is linen yarn, which may be estimated thus: The women, from 10 years old and upwards, employ themselves in spinning linen yarn, almost wholly for sale, from the beginning or middle of November, till about the end of March, a period of 21 weeks. Of the 789 females above 8 years of age, 272, who are married, may be supposed to spin at the rate of one spindle the week. From the remainder, 517, one fifth part, 103, may be deducted, consisting of girls, old women, &c. whose work cannot be reckoned of any account. The rest, 414, may be supposed to spin at the rate of two spindles. Hence the quantity spun in the above period of 21 weeks, will be :

	Spindles.
272 spinners, at 1 spindle the week, spin	- 5712
414 ditto, at 2 ditto, ditto,	- 17388
	23100

Thus it may be reckoned, that 23,000 spindles, spun for sale, during the spinning season, and sold out of the parish at 2s. 4d. the spindle, bring a return in cash, of L. 2683 : 6 : 8. This quantity of yarn exhausts about 2200 stones of lint, in the state it comes from the mill.

The

The remainder of the produce is either spun in summer, for home wear, in the intervals of other labour, or sold to neighbouring districts, less fertile in producing flax.

The oak woods are valued at L. 4500 at a cutting. Being cut once in 20 years, they are worth at the rate of L. 225 a-year. The oak bark, by itself, is estimated at the same price, as the wood is allowed to the merchant to defray the expence of cutting, peeling and carriage. Sheep, fold yearly, may be worth L. 900. Black cattle, L. 300. Wool, 9000 fleeces, at 8d. worth L. 300. One half of the wool is manufactured in the parish, and the other half exported.

*Mills.*—The number of mills in the parish is 10 meal-mills, 3 fulling mills, and 7 lint-mills. The number of the latter is much more than sufficient for the quantity of flax raised; this is, however, a conveniency to the people, as they get their flax all dressed at the proper time for spinning it. The rate of multure paid at the meal-mills is, in general, one eleventh part of the victual that is ground.

*Language.*—The language principally spoken is the Gaelic. Most of the people, however, understand so much of English, as to be able to transact ordinary business with their neighbours of the low country. The reading of Gaelic has come to be much more taught and studied in this part of the country than formerly, since the publication of the late Gaelic version of the scriptures. There can be no doubt, that this publication will have a powerful effect, in arresting and preserving pure the Gaelic language, which has been for many ages yielding gradually, to the encroachments of the English. It was once thought an object worthy of political attention

tention to use means for eradicating this language from the Highlands of Scotland \*. It is to be presumed, that the legislature now entertains different views; for experience has by this time sufficiently evinced, that industry and good order are not incompatible with the use of the Gaelic, and of tartan philabegs.

All names of places in the parish, whose etymology can be traced with certainty, are Gaelic.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The stipend is L. 29 : 7 : 6  $\frac{2}{3}$  in money, 73 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, 1 lippie of victual, half bear, half oat-meal, which, at an average of 14s. the boll, makes L. 51 : 14 : 5  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; with a glebe of 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of good soil, L. 8, and L. 1 : 13 : 4, the legal conversion of grafs sufficient to maintain two cows and a horse; total L. 90 : 15 : 4  $\frac{1}{3}$ . It is uncertain when the church was built; a stone, which stood over a window, has 1613, distinctly embossed on it. The front wall was taken down, and the church widened, in 1704; the inside repaired, and new-seated, the windows enlarged, the walls plastered and the roof cield, in 1787. The manse was built in 1758.

*Schools.*—In the parochial school there are about 50 scholars, of whom 7 are taught Latin. The rest learn reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and some branches of mathematics. The salary is 300 merks Scotch, (L. 16 : 13 : 4 Sterling), of which 200 are paid by the

VOL. V.

I

heritors,

\* “ Forasmeikle that the Ingleshe toung may be universallie planted, “ and the Irishe language, which is one of the chieff and principale causes “ of the continuance of barbaritie and incivilitie, among the inhabitants of “ the Isles and Heylandis, may be abolished and removit,” &c. Act of the Privy Council of Scotland, anent the settlement of schools. December 10.



heritors, and 100 given out of the confiscated bishops lands. The school fees are, each quarter, 1 s. 3 d. for reading, 1 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic, 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. for Latin, and 3 s. for Greek. Besides the stated fees, the master receives some small gratuity, generally 2 d. or 3 d. from each scholar on handfel Monday, or shrove Tuesday. As session-clerk, he has L. 1, 1 s. of salary, 2 s. for registering every marriage, and 3 d. for each baptism. There are 5 other schools in different parts of the parish, taught by persons who have undertaken that employment of their own accord, where children learn to read English and Gaelic. The number of scholars in these last mentioned schools, from the beginning of November to the end of March, is about 180. The parochial school is the only one kept up in summer, but the number of scholars is then inconsiderable, because almost all the children of both sexes are then at service; very few remaining in the neighbourhood, the greater part going, at that season, to the low country, where they are employed in herding, or tending cattle.

*Poor.*—The number of the poor, who receive regular supplies, is about 16, and those who receive occasional assistance are about 16 more. The capital of the poor's fund is L. 234, made up from legacies, donations, and savings, under the management of economical trustees, yielding an annual income of L. 8, 14 s. The annual amount of collections, fines, &c. is, at an average, about L. 18, 10 s. so that the whole produce of the funds comes to L. 27, 4 s. Out of this is to be deducted the fees of Synod, presbytery, and session-clerks, officers, &c. equal to L. 2 : 3 : 6; which leaves the revenue of the poor about L. 25 : 0 : 6. A considerable rise in the collections at church, took place in 1788, when the church was newly repaired and seated. The heritors, ob-  
serving

ferving that the weekly collections had long been very small, intimated to their refpective tenants, that if they would make a decent contribution for the poor, they would have their feats in the church free ; that, otherwife, every tenant would be charged with a fmall yearly feat rent, to be applied to the ufe of the poor. This intimation, accompanied with fome exhortations to charity, by the minifter, which, for the credit of his people, he is willing to fuppose, had fome influence, increafed the yearly collection from an average of L. 6, 6s. to L. 15, 12s. in 1788, and L. 15, 2s. in 1789. From 1775 to 1784 inclusive, the heritors affeffed themfelves in 20 bolls of oat-meal annually, for the fupport of the poor ; but fince the year 1784, this contribution has been difcontinued as unneceffary. In 1782 and 1783, the people were much diftreffed from the fcarcity of provifions, particularly oat-meal, the price of which rofe to 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d. the peck. In 1783, the kirk-feffion and heritors diftributed 40 bolls of meal among the poor of the parifh.

*Mifcellaneous Observations.*—The general fize of the men is 5 feet 5 or 6 inches ; of the women 5 feet. The tallft man now living in the parifh is 6 feet 4 inches ; and the oldeft man now alive is about 95 years of age. The people have no idea of a feafaring life, and are very averfe to a military one. They are humane, very obliging, well enough contented ; enjoy the neceffaries of life in a tolerable degree, and the comforts of fociety in abundance ; are frugal in their diet, but ftudy a neat and fhowy appearance in their drefs and furniture. None are known to have emigrated beyond fea from the parifh ; there are no inftances, for many years paff, of any perfon dying for want ; and but one has been banifhed.

*Advantages*

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish is totally free from the baneful consequences of religious controversy. Some years ago there were a few Episcopalians ; but these now join in communion with those of the Established Church. The name of Seceder is unknown. The justices of peace, in the district, hold regular quarterly meetings, for the purpose of deciding differences among their tenants. One obvious good effect of this measure is, to put a speedy end to their disputes, and to save them the heavy expence of attending the tedious proceedings of a sheriff-court, at the distance of 30 miles. The parish enjoys the benefit of good roads, and an easy access to the low country, and to the nearest market towns, Dunkeld and Perth. A few farms are still intermixed together, in the way called run-ridge ; that is, the ridges of arable land belong alternately to different tenants, a most incommo- dious and absurd arrangement. Much time and labour is spent in procuring fuel, and lost to agriculture. This disadvantage is yearly increasing, because the mosses which used to supply the people with peat, are in some parts exhausted, and those which remain, either lie at a greater distance, or are of more difficult access. Some parts of the parish must soon labour under a scarcity of fuel, an inconvenience which will not easily be remedied ; for coal is at a great distance, there is no water carriage, wood is dear, and wood plantations neither extensive nor much advanced in growth. One cause which accelerates a scarcity of fuel, is the distilling of whisky ; for one still consumes as much peat as would serve five families.

*Distilleries, Alehouses, &c.*—There are 2 licensed stills of 30 gallons each in the parish, and 24 licensed retailers of ale, beer, and other exciseable liquors. The number of distillers  
and

and retailers may be considered as a circumstance unfavourable to the health, and the morals of the people. However, it cannot be said, that the people are addicted to drinking. Even at weddings, and on holidays, instances of persons drinking to excess are few, and a drunken squabble is extremely rare. It is somewhat remarkable, that among people who hardly know how to make a bargain, or pay a debt, except over a dram of whisky, moderation should be so generally observed; particularly when it is considered, that at the fairs, every house, hut, and shed in the respective villages, is converted into a dram-shop.

*Antiquities.*—An old ruin stands in the neighbourhood of the village of Moulin. It appears to have been nearly a square, measuring 76 feet by 80, and had a round turret at each of the four corners. It stood within a small lake, which has been drained: The vestiges of a causeway, leading from the building to the nearest rising ground, a distance of 110 yards, are quite distinct. A part of the south wall, 50 feet in length, 25 in height, and 5 in thickness, are still standing; also some fragments of the north and west walls, and most of the north-west turret. The stones of the wall are placed in regular horizontal rows, but not hewn, pinned with small flat stones, and cemented with lime and sand, which, masons say, must have been mixed with water to a thin consistence, and then poured in among the stones, as each row was laid. One side of a window, or some such opening, is to be seen in a part of the turret which remains; there is no appearance of an aperture of any kind in all the rest of the wall. No authentic accounts whatever, respecting this building have ever been found. Some suppose it to have been a religious house, as the lands about it are known to have been church lands. It is said to have belonged

longed some time to the Cummins, who were earls of Atholl and Badenoch in the 14th century. A tradition prevails, that a number of persons, infected with the plague, were shut up, and afterwards buried in it. Hence it is thought unsafe, by the country people, to remove any of the stones, lest the infection break forth. It has been known, for many years back, by the name of the Old Castle of Moulin. The vestiges of small circular buildings supposed to have been Pictish forts, are to be seen in different parts of the parish. Two or three Druidical places of worship are discernible, each having the vestiges of a circular, or an elliptical stone fence, and a single tall stone in the centre, or the focus.

*Fossils.*—The skull of a large horned animal was found, some years ago in a marl pit, half a mile from Moulin, and is preserved at Atholl House. The head is shaped like that of an ox; the horns are lost, but the pith is entire; the length of the skull, from the edge of the bone between the horns, to the extremity of the upper jaw, is  $26\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the greatest circumference of the pith, 13 inches; the diameter of the eye socket,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; and the distance between the eyes,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is supposed to have belonged to one of those animals which Cæsar calls Uri, and which were found in the Hercynian forest in Germany\*.

*Battle.*—There was a battle fought in this parish, on the 17th July 1689, between King William's troops, commanded by General Mackay, and a body of Highlanders, headed by Graham, Viscount Dundee, which is known by the name of the battle of Killcrankie. A small mound, on the ground where the battle began, is called

\* Bell. Gall. lib. 6. cap. 26.

ed in Gaelic *Tomb Clavers*, that is, Mount Clavers; a number of human bones were found in it, in digging for gravel. At this spot, it is said, Lord Dundee fell; but it is believed that he was afterwards carried to Blair, where he died of his wounds. The skeleton of a man was found in the garret of Mr Stewart of Urrard's house, which stands near the place where the battle was fought, some years afterwards, supposed to have been the bones of a soldier, who had taken refuge in the house.

*Eminent Men.*—Captain Campbell of Finnab was born here. This gentleman is renowned for the gallant defence he made of the Scotch colony at Darien, and the honourable terms of capitulation he procured for the garrison, when that settlement was evacuated.

*Roads.*—The great road from Perth to Inverness passes through the parish, and is always kept in good repair, by the statute-work of the country, together with the occasional assistance of military parties. The cross roads are few, and are kept in pretty good repair, by the attention of the country gentlemen, in applying the statute-work where it is most needed. The statute-labour is generally exacted in kind, though sometimes a commutation is allowed at the rate of sixpence for a day's labour. There are no turnpikes, nor does there seem to be any occasion for them. The only bridge of note is that over the Garry, at the south end of the pass of Killicrankie, built by subscription, and finished in 1770. There was formerly a ferry on the same river, near the place where the bridge was built, after the ferry-boat was lost, on the evening of a Fair day, in February 1767, and eighteen persons drowned, among whom were four men with their wives. Soon afterwards a sub-  
scription

scription was opened for building a bridge, and the contributions were liberal.

*Remarkable Customs, &c.*—A number of trifling ceremonies, which had their origin in superstition, are still continued at christenings, burials, and other solemn or festive occasions; but they seem to be retained rather from an attachment to old usages, than from the belief, that the observance or omission of them is attended with any important effect. It is observable that those gymnastic exercises, which constituted the chief pastime of the Highlanders 40 or 50 years ago, have almost totally disappeared. At every fair or meeting of the country people, there were contests at racing, wrestling, putting the stone, &c.; and on holidays, all the males of a district, young and old, met to play at football, but oftener at *shinty*\*. These games are now practised only by school-boys, having given place to the more elegant, though less manly, amusement of dancing, which is become very common, especially on holidays. A shooting match, for some small prize, occupies part of the day; and in the evening, they repair to a ball, in a barn or tap-room, where they enjoy all the pleasures of rural festivity.

\* *Shinty* is a game played with sticks, crooked at the end, and balls of wood.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of MOULIN.

Population, <i>anno</i> 1755,	2109	Number of innkeepers, and	
———— <i>anno</i> 1790,	1749	retailers of ale, &c.	24
Decrease,	360	———— Smiths,	5
Average of Births, for		———— Mafons,	5
7 years preceding		———— Carpenters,	8
1790,	46	———— Weavers,	28
Inhabitants in towns,	0	———— Shoemakers,	7
———— in villages,	268	———— Tailors,	10
———— in the coun-		———— Flaxdressers,	4
try,	1481	———— Coopers,	4
Number of Males,	817	———— Sievemakers,	3
———— Females,	932	———— Dyer,	1
Persons under 8 years		———— Servants, male	
of age,	292	and female,	124
Above that age,	1457	———— Poor,	32
Houfes inhabited,	440	Capital of their	
Ditto uninhabited,	0	funds, L. 234 0 0	
———— Widowers,	39	Ann. income, 27 4 0	
———— Widows,	76	Young persons taught	
Proprietors refiding,	10	English, Writing, &c. 230	
— — — non-refiding,	4	———— Latin,	7
Number of Clergymen,	1	———— At the Univerfity,	1
———— of fchoolmafters,	6	No. of Wheel-carriages,	1
———— Farmers,	194	———— Carts,	581
———— Shopkeepers,	6	———— Ploughs,	146

		L.	S.	D.
Valued rent, in Scotch money,		4026	3	10
Real rent, <i>anno</i> 1791, in Sterling,		3000	0	0
Stipend, &c.		90	15	4½



VALUE OF LIVE STOCK.

	L. s. D.	each.	Total	L. s. D.
Number of tenants horses, 564 valued at	5 0 0		2820 0 0	
Saddle and carriage horses, 20	16 0 0		320 0 0	
Belt cattle,	2 0 0		104 0 0	
Inferior ditto,	1 14 0		2397 0 0	
Belt sheep,	2400		800 0 0	
Inferior ditto,	7000		1925 0 0	
Goats, swine, &c. supposed worth in all,	5 6		1000 0 0	
			<b>Total</b> 2820 0 0	

NUMBER

Total value of flock, L. 9366 0 0

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

CROPS.	Number of Acres under each.	Produce per Acre. BOLLS.	Price per BOLL.		Total price per Acre.	Total produce. BOLLS.	Total Value.	
			L. s. D.	D.			L. s. D.	D.
Oats, - - -	1020	4 1/2	14 0	0	3 3 0	4590	3213 0 0	
Barley, - - -	656	4	14 0	0	2 10 0	2624	1836 16 0	
Peas, - - -	64	3	12 0	0	1 10 0	192	115 4 0	
Potatoes, - - -	75	25	6 8	8	8 6 8	1875	625 0 0	
Flax, - - -	75	36	13 4	0	24 0 0	2700	1800 0 0	
Meadow hay, or natural grafs	-	-	-	5	-	5000	104 3 4	
Sown grafs,	60	-	-	-	8 0 0	-	480 0 0	
Straw at 3 s. per boll of corn,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1023 6 0	
PaAure at 35 s. per horse; 20 s. per cow; and 2 s. per sheep,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3385 0 0	
Annual produce of woods and plantations, about	-	-	-	-	-	-	225 0 0	
Fisheries, total value caught, about	-	-	-	-	-	-	200 0 0	
							<b>Total Value of Annual Produce,</b> L. 13,007 9 4	

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF LOGIERAIT.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. Dr THOMAS BISSET.**Situation, &c.*

THIS parish is situated in the shire of Perth, in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and in the Synod of Perth and Stirling. Its eastern extremity is about half a mile below the junction of the rivers Tummel and Tay. The principal part of the parish is of an irregular triangular shape, lying either between these two rivers, or on the north side of the Tummel. The tract extending along the Tay, is denominated Strath-Tay. South of Tummel, is Slesbeg, or *the narrow country*. These two districts are separated by a ridge, which is terminated on the east end by precipitous rocks, and is intersected at five or six miles distance from these rocks, by another chain crossing it obliquely, from south-west to north-east. The distance between Tay and Tummel, may be about seven miles. One detached part of this parish stretches about a mile south of Tay, upon the road to Taymouth. Another division of it is situated in Rannoch, at thirty miles distance.

*Scenery, Hills, Lakes, Rivers, &c.*—A rock, not above a mile from the church, commands a prospect of a great part of the parish. The windings of the rivers, the rich vales, the sloping corn fields and pastures, the hanging woodlands, and the awful mountains which rise at a distance to confine the view, form, all together, one of the noblest landscapes, for extent, variety, beauty and grandeur, that the eye can behold. The land upon the banks of the rivers is chiefly arable; much of the rising ground, too, which confines the vales, is also cultivated, where the declivities are not too steep for the course of the plough. About the middle of Strath-Tay, and in several places on both sides of the Tummel, the woodlands extend to the very brink of the river. The hills are partly covered with heath; but in some parts exhibit nothing but bare rocks. The lands, wherever arable, are moderately fertile. The air is dry, and not unhealthy. The water through the parish is abundantly pure and wholesome. Besides the rivers Tay and Tummel, there are several small lakes; and some farms belonging to Logierait, border upon Loch Rannoch, a body of water ten miles in length, and, from a mile, to a mile and a half broad. The rivers frequently overflow their banks; and on such occasions never fail to enlarge their channels, by breaking down some part of their banks, in one part or another. The greatest floods that have been known here, within the present century, happened in the year 1761.

*Minerals, Vegetables, and Animals.*—Our rocks have nothing singular in their composition or aspect. They afford indeed a variety of talc; which is found in many other places through the north of Scotland. On one side of Strath-Tay, too, are several strata of lime-stone. Fossil wood is occasionally

sionally dug up in our mosses. The woods growing through this parish, occupy about 800 acres of ground. The trees are oaks, ashes, elms, beeches, planes, poplars, birches, larches, allers, willows, the Scotch and the spruce fir, the liburnum, and the walnut-tree. The soil and situation are friendly to fruit trees, and equally so to the currant and the gooseberry bush, and to other shrubs of a similar character. The vegetables cultivated here, as articles of crop, are barley, oats, rye, pease, potatoes, and in our gardens, the common pot herbs.

*Agriculture.*—Of the lands in this parish, between 2500 and 3000 acres may be arable. Several thousands of acres are waste, and in common; 200 acres are annually planted with potatoes; 50 may be covered with rye and pease; 200 are kept for pasture in gentlemen's inclosures; about 1200 are sown with oats; 100 acres have been sown with *artificial* grass seeds, of which the farmers made the first trial in 1790; 200 are sown with flax; and the rest of the ground which is annually plowed, is sown with barley. The fields, whether in crop or in pasture, are in general open; but of the advantages of inclosures, we are all fully sensible. About 200 ploughs are employed in the cultivation of our lands; on the uplands, the plough is drawn by 4 horses yoked a-breast, and the driver walks backwards. On the plains, when 4 horses are employed, they are yoked *two and two*; and in some instances, 2 horses draw the plough, without a driver; 400 carts are used in the parish, although 30 years since, we had not 50 among us.

*Exports and Imports.*—An hundred stone weight of butter, 200 stone weight of Scotch, and from 3 to 4000 lbs of Suffolk cheese, are annually consumed in this parish, in addition

addition to such quantities of these articles as are produced in it. We need an yearly supply of about 300 bolls of oat-meal. Formerly, we required at least four times as much. But since potatoes have been introduced among us, and have come to be generally used as an ordinary article of food, we use much less meal than before. In the distillation of whisky, we use 1000 bolls of barley, above what is produced in the parish. But in return, we annually sell off, for the consumption of other parts, 400 wedders, 200 hogs, about 100 lean cows to the fourth country graziers in spring, and a great quantity of poultry. We manufacture also a considerable quantity of whisky, for the use of the low country. But our staple article of manufacture and export, is linen yarn.

*Population.*—The population of the parish of Logierait, bears no unequal proportion to the quantity of its lands which is cultivated. It has continued nearly the same, for these many years, though, on the whole, there has been a decrease since 1755, when the return to Dr Webster was 2487 souls, whereas, at present, they do not exceed 2200.

*Population Table of Logierait, anno 1791.*

Resident in the country,	-	-	2000 Souls.
In the village of Logierait, about	-	-	200
		—	2200
Under 10 years of age,	-	-	450
Of the age of 96,	-	-	1
Farmers,	-	-	200
Their children and servants,	-	-	1000
Artifans, with their apprentices,	-	-	60
Fishermen, with occasional servants,	-	-	10
Male servants hired for the year,	-	-	50

Female servants,	-	-	-	280
Day-labourers,	-	-	-	100
Students at Universities, from this parish,	-	-	-	2
Shop-keepers and travelling chapmen,	-	-	-	12
Gentlemen resident in the parish,	-	-	-	6
A clergyman of the Established Church,	-	-	-	1
Another of the Episcopal Communion,	-	-	-	1
Persons belonging to the Established Church,				1800
To the Episcopal Communion,	-	-	-	390
Roman Catholics,	-	-	-	10

Did not numbers emigrate, every year, to the lowlands, our population would rapidly increase. The annual births are, to the whole population, nearly in the proportion of 1 to 29. The proportion of the annual marriages to the whole population, is that of 1 to 110. The deaths are not registered. Not the 20th man, in the parish, remains unmarried at the age of 35.—As many men, but few females, leave the country for life, the old maids are more numerous than the bachelors. Twice or thrice, within these 30 years, numbers have been swept away by a putrid fever. A fever, accompanied with a fore-throat, has, at times, been very mortal. The common epidemical diseases prove occasionally fatal among the children. But, since the practice of inoculation has been introduced among us, we suffer much less than formerly from the small-pox.

*State of Property.*—The proprietors of this parish, of whom the Duke of Athol is the principal, are 17. There are also 9 small feuars. Five of the great heritors, and 6 of the

the feuars reside constantly in the parish. The whole rents of the lands and mills, in the parish, may amount to about L. 3000. The rents of the ferries, fishings, and houses, that are set separate from the lands, do not exceed, altogether, L. 100.

The best inclosed ground is let for L. 1, 10 s. an acre ; but a few acres bring even L. 2. Land of an inferior quality is rented at from 15 s. to L. 1 an acre. A farm consisting of as much arable ground as can be cultivated with one plough, affords, upon an average, through this parish, L. 18 of yearly rent.

*Church and Poor.*—The value of the living, with the glebe, may be about L. 90 a-year. The Duke of Athol is patron. A broken cross upon the church, indicates it to have been built in the times when Popery was the established religion of the kingdom. The manse was built in 1756. Forty poor persons receive the alms distributed by the session ; and a few more beg. The weekly collections, made at the church, produce about L. 14 a-year ; the other funds afford L. 6 more ; and this is all the session have to distribute.

*School.*—There is a parochial school, with a yearly salary from the parish, to which there is added 100 merks *per annum*, given by the trustees for managing the rents of the bishoprick of Dunkeld. The church dues may be about L. 5 Sterling. The scholars pay from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. a quarter.

There is 1 charity school in the parish, and another principally for its use, though it be situated in a detached part of another parish. In the winter months, there are 4, 5, or 6 private schools kept up by the tenants. The whole  
number

number of scholars may exceed 300, of which scarcely a third are girls; as from the age of 8 or 9, the girls are employed in spinning.

*Manners, General Character, &c.*—The general character of the people of this parish is sufficiently respectable. The virtues of humanity, frugality, and industry, the best ornaments of human nature, flourish among them. In the war, which terminated happily in the beginning of his present Majesty's reign, many became soldiers, and were distinguished for their valour. But the military life has no longer the same charms in their eyes. In an inland place, such as this, there are few temptations to a seafaring life. In winter, the women sit closely at their wheels; in summer, they are employed in field work. The men labour hard in spring, summer, and harvest; in winter they enjoy some relaxation. The ordinary stature of the men, in this parish, is about 5 feet and a half; none exceed 6 feet 2 inches. The modes of dress, and of living, in general, have altered and improved within these last 20 years. No part of the old highland dress is retained, except the philabeg, and the tartan hose. The coat has short skirts. Great coats are now more generally used than plaids. The Sunday vests are commonly of striped cotton. Many of the young men wear watches. Many of the young women have printed cotton gowns, and duffle cloaks. And several of the farmers and handicraftsmen have now clocks in their houses. Many of the young women are now taught to sew and knit stockings. Cleanliness is more carefully attended to, than it was 20 years since; and cutaneous disorders have accordingly ceased to prevail among them. Although abundantly sensible of the beneficial influence of law, as the guardian of property, they are now less disposed to litigation, than they



once were. Twenty years since, they were univerfally Jacobites ; they are now, however, well affected to the prefent government. The language fpoken here, is a corrupted dialect of the Gaelic. The Saxon dialect of the lowlands is, however, pretty generally underftood here. The natives of this parifh are acute and ingenious ; and it muft not be omitted, that Dr Adam Ferguffon, fo respectable for his literary talents, his learning and eloquence, was born here.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The intercourse has not yet been fo confiderable, any where through this parifh, as to fuggelt the idea of making roads, with money borrowed upon the fecurity of tolls to be eftablifhed upon them. The road lying north from the river Tummel, was firft made at the expence of government, and is kept in repair by the ftatute labour, with a little occasional affiftance from the foldiers ftationed in the country. The bridges upon that river were built, and are ftill occasionally repaired by government. The road leading through Strath-Tay was made, and continues to be kept in repair, by the ftatute labour ; it is good in fummer, but in many places deep and miry in winter. The bridges upon the Strath-Tay road, were built by the county, with the affiftance of a fubfcription, and are at prefent in complete repair. The ftatute labour has not been yet converted into money ; and perhaps this fact may ferve better than any other, to mark the ftate of induftry, and the progrefs of the fubdivifion of labour among the people.

*Superftitious Opinions and Practices.*—In this parifh, and in the neighbourhood, a variety of fuperftitious practices ftill prevail among the vulgar, which may be in part the remains of ancient idolatry, or of the corrupted Chriftianity of the Romifh church, and partly, perhaps, the refult of the  
the

the natural hopes and fears of the human mind, in a state of simplicity and ignorance. Lucky and unlucky days are by many anxiously observed. That day of the week upon which the 14th of May happens to fall, for instance, is esteemed unlucky through all the remainder of the year; none marry, or begin any serious business upon it. None chuse to marry in January or May; or to have their banns proclaimed in the end of one quarter of the year, and to marry in the beginning of the next. Some things are to be done before the full moon; others after. In fevers, the illness is expected to be more severe on Sunday, than on the other days of the week; if easier on Sunday, a relapse is feared.

Immediately before the celebration of the marriage ceremony, every knot about the bride and bridegroom, (garters, shoe-strings, strings of petticoats, &c.) is carefully loosened. After leaving the church, the whole company walk round it, keeping the church walls always upon the right hand. The bridegroom, however, first retires one way with some young men, to tie the knots that were loosed about him; while the young married woman, in the same manner, retires somewhere else to adjust the disorder of her dress.

When a child was baptised privately, it was not long since customary, to put the child upon a clean basket, having a cloth previously spread over it, with bread and cheese put into the cloth; and thus to move the basket three times successively round the iron *crook*, which hangs over the fire, from the roof of the house, for the purpose of supporting the pots when water is boiled, or victuals are prepared. This might be anciently intended to counteract the malignant arts, which witches and evil spirits were imagined to practise against new born infants.

Recourse

Recourse is often had to charms, for the cure of diseases of horses and cows, no less than in the human species. In the case of various diseases, a pilgrimage is performed to a place called Strathfillan, 40 miles distant from Logierait; where the patient bathes in a certain pool, and performs some other rites in a chapel which stands near. It is chiefly in the case of madness, however, that the pilgrimage to Strathfillan is believed to be salutary. The unfortunate person is first bathed in the pool, then left for a night bound in the chapel, and if found loose in the morning, is expected to recover.

There is a disease called *Glacach* by the Highlanders, which, as it affects the chest and lungs, is evidently of a consumptive nature. It is also called, "the Macdonald's disease," because there are particular tribes of Macdonalds, who are believed to cure it with the charms of their touch, and the use of a certain set of words. There must be no fee given of any kind. Their faith in the touch of a Macdonald is very great.

On the 1st of May, O. S. a festival called *Beltan* is annually held here. It is chiefly celebrated by the cow-herds, who assemble by scores in the fields, to dress a dinner for themselves, of boiled milk and eggs. These dishes they eat with a sort of cakes baked for the occasion, and having small lumps in the form of *nipples*, raised all over the surface. The cake might perhaps be an offering to some deity in the days of Druidism. On the evening of the 31st of October, O. S. among many others, one remarkable enough ceremony is observed. Heath, broom, and dressings of flax, are tied upon a pole: This faggot is then kindled; one takes it upon his shoulders, and running, bears it round the village; a crowd attend: When the first faggot is burnt out, a second is bound to the pole, and  
kindled

kindled in the same manner as before. Numbers of these blazing faggots are often carried about together, and when the night happens to be dark, they form a splendid illumination. This is *Halloween*, and is a night of great festivity.

These several particulars, if considered separately, may appear trifling; but, taken all together, they form no inconsiderable part of what, (with only some slight variations,) the religion of the vulgar will always be, in every age, and in every stage of society, and indeed, whatever be the religion which they profess, unless they are so grossly stupid, or so flagitiously immoral, as to be incapable of feeling the restraints of any system of religion, whether rational or superstitious.

*Curious Remains of Antiquity.*—None of the stones called obelisks remain here; but many of those stones which are said to have belonged to Druidical places of worship. The ruins of some Popish chapels are still to be seen. A Roman urn was found at the distance of 8 miles from the village of Logierait. A medal (of Trajan it is believed) was found in this parish, and has been given to Professor Ferguson of Edinburgh. A flint arrow-head, found near the village, was given to the late Duke of Atholl. In several places through the parish, cairns of stones, which are believed to have been the sepulchral monuments of the rude ages, in which they were raised, were lately to be seen. But the stones of many of them have been since carried away, and used in building walls. On the top of a rock, 2 miles from the manse of Logierait, are the ruins of a building, which is thought to have been intended as a place for giving signals by fires. About half a mile from the village, upon a high bank, near the ferry of Tummel, are the ruins of a castle, which is said to have been the residence of Robert II, after he gave up the administration of the  
the

the government into the hands of his brother, the Duke of Albany. The situation commands a noble prospect. The *fossè* is still pretty entire. The area within, is of an elliptical figure, having its long axis parallel to the ferry of Tummel. Near the castle is a field, called Cannon-brae, upon which, if we might believe tradition, was a battery.

*Remarkable Natural Phenomena.*—About thirty years ago, a shock of an earthquake was felt here; its direction was from east to west; its duration about a second or two. On the 25th of June 1778, a water spout did considerable damage upon a farm belonging to this parish, but situated in Rannoch. It was accompanied with a tremendous thunder-storm. The air was, at the same time, darkened, and was felt to be sultry and stifling, at the village of Logierait, but without thunder or rain. The globe of fire, which was seen in many places about eight or ten years since, passed very rapidly through our horizon.

*Seasons of Famine.*—In 1782, the crop was bad, and the harvest late; and, to add to the misfortune, the potatoes were generally destroyed by frosts, which came on, in that season, earlier than usual. Accordingly, in the summer of 1783, oat meal, made of bad foreign oats, was sold for 1s. 5d. a-peck; and bear meal for 1s. a-peck. We received 16 bolls 1 peck of barley meal, from the grant voted by Parliament, for the relief of the Highlands. The kirk-session, with the consent of the heritors, advanced a part of the mortgaged money under their management, in the way of loan, for the same purposes; and in better seasons, it has been since repaid. Great humanity was shewn to the begging poor. Potatoes were ready for use, earlier in that season than usual. And linen yarn happened luckily to bring, at  
the

the same time, a very high price. By the beginning of August, the general distress was greatly relieved. In 1756, or 1757, corn and meal were nearly as dear as in 1783; but the price of yarn one third lower; and the poor, by consequence, suffered more in that season, than in 1783.

It might have been mentioned before, that as the prevalent language of the parish is Gaelic, the proper names of places are all of Gaelic derivation. Logierait, for instance, is compounded of the two Gaelic words, Logan, *a hollow place*; and Reite, *the ending of differences*; and the place seems to have received the name from its low situation, and from its having been the seat of the regality court of Atholl. The farm next adjoining to that, properly called Logierait, has received the name of Ballintoin, or *Marsh-town*, from its situation, and the nature of the ground in it. Another, Ballinearn, or *Allertown*, because surrounded with brush-wood of this sort. Another farm, which once belonged to the old Abbacy of Cupar, bears, in the same manner, a Gaelic name, expressive of that circumstance.

*Improvements suggested.*—It would tend much to the advantage and cultivation of this country, if the services performed by the tenants were converted into money. At present they perform many carriages to a distance; make the peats and carry them home: In part they till the ground of the proprietor in spring, and cut down his corn in harvest. The establishment of manufactures; the enlargement of the farms, so as to enable every farmer to keep a plough for himself; the inclosure of the fields; the division of the commons; the straightening of the ridges in plowing; the giving up the prevalent practice of *run-ridges*; and the spreading of plantations of larches and Scotch firs over the wild and barren hills, would, no doubt, contribute greatly to improve the condition, and increase the <sup>number</sup> population of this parish.

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF GORDON.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER DUNCAN.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

IT is said that several persons of the name of Gordon came to Britain with William the Conqueror, one of whom, having visited Scotland during the reign of Malcolm Canmore, and having fortunately killed a wild boar, that had greatly infested this neighbourhood, received, as a reward, a grant of certain lands in Merse or Berwickshire, to which he gave his own name of Gordon. From him the Dukes of Gordon are descended, and in memory of this gallant action, the white boar makes a part of the family arms. The Duke of Gordon is still superior of some lands in the parish. Those of East and West Gordon, Huntly, and Huntly-wood, belonged in property to his ancestors; one of whom, however, having obtained very considerable possessions in the north, was thence induced to change his place of residence, and to live in that part of Scotland.

The parish was formerly of very large extent; but has since been dismembered, and part of it called Durrington-laws, annexed to Longformacus, 12 miles distant. Out of it, about the year 1647, was also erected the parish of Weftruther, or Woolfruther, comprehending Bassendean, a church

church and parish, formerly in the presbytery of Melrose. Gordon is situated in the county of Berwick, in the presbytery of Lauder, and in the synod of Merse and Teviotdale. The church stands at West Gordon, 33 miles distant from Edinburgh, and 23 from Berwick. The great road from Edinburgh to London, by Greenlaw and Cornhill, runs through the northern part of it, for about two miles. Gordon is still a parish of great extent, being 7 miles long from W. to E. but unequal in its breadth, one half being about 2 miles, the other half 4 miles broad; the figure is consequently irregular.

*Soil, Climate, Rivers, &c.*—The surface is uneven. There are three or four rising grounds, or hills, one of which is of some height, and is not yet entirely cultivated, though two sides of it are plowed; the others are all cultivated to the top. There are many pieces of good arable land, some of it clayey, but more light and sandy. There are also great tracts of moor, of moss, and bog. The air is not unwholesome, though, from the quantity of moss and bog, damps must arise. Some years ago agues were prevalent. Of late consumptions have been more common than formerly. The river Eden runs through this parish from N. to S. and Blackadder runs on the north side for a mile or two, both small rivers, in which there are some trouts and eels. There are whinstones in great abundance, and some white and red freestone. The former are on the surface, the latter dug out of the ground; both are used for building.

*Cattle.*—Improvements in the breed of sheep and cattle have made rapid progress, since the turnip husbandry commenced 15 or 16 years ago. At that time sheep were sold, at a year old, for six or eight shillings. By raising for them



better food, and mending the breed by crossing with Mr Culley's rams, they have, this year, been sold at the same age, for fifteen and sixteen shillings. Black cattle also are greatly improved in number and value. In winter 1775-6, there were only 11 beasts fed with turnips for the butcher, and in winter 1781-2, at the distance of only six years, there were 200 fattened in the parish, besides some scores of sheep. This business is still continued and increased, though not so much in the numbers of cattle fed, as in feeding them to greater value. L. 10 was, at that time, reckoned a great price; now they are fed to L. 15, L. 18, and even L. 20 value.

*Population.*—Since the erection of the parish of Westruther, the parish of Gordon has been considered as consisting of about 600 examinable persons. The returns to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 737 souls. In 1771, when the first list of examinable persons was taken by the present incumbent, they consisted of 630, in 1778, of 530. In 1790, they rose to 676, and, in 1791, a particular list of all descriptions and ages having been made, the number of souls was found to be 912. Of these 472 are females, and 440 males. The number of inhabited houses is 217, so that there are more than four to each family. Although a register is kept, as appointed by act of Parliament, of marriages, christenings, and burials, it is so inaccurate, that no confidence can be placed in it. The session-clerks, in place of taking 3 d. for each marriage, take it for each proclamation of banns; so that a couple, proclaimed in the parishes where each resided, and married in a third parish, have paid three times instead of once.

The

The following, however, is the amount, such as our registers afford, for the last three years, of

	Marriages, Births, & Deaths.			
In 1788, there were	-	2	27	14
In 1789,	-	7	16	11
In 1790,	-	4	21	17
		—	—	—
		13	64	42
		—	—	—

The average therefore appears to be 4            21            14

Though there are no remarkable instances of longevity, many persons have died, aged from 70 to 90. One or two are now alive aged 92 years. The number of Seceders amount to 130. There are neither Episcopalians nor Roman Catholics in the parish. The diminution of the number of inhabitants, from 1771 to 1778, was owing to two or three small farms, in different places in the parish, having been let to one tenant. The increase of population from 1778 to 1790, was visibly owing to feuing ground by a plan for a village at West Gordon, where, though purchasers have built good houses for themselves, and some for tradesmen and day-labourers, the farms being better cultivated, yet the tenants have been obliged to build houses to accommodate their servants and labourers. Many of the tenants and their servants have 6 or 7, and some 8 and 10 children by one wife. A farmer died this year, who had 15 children by one wife, 9 of whom survived him. A mealmaker died lately, who had been twice married, and was the father of 18 legitimate children, 9 of whom survived him. A labouring man died a few years ago, aged 80, who had been the father of 20 legitimate children, of these only 3 survived him. He had been thrice married.

*Agriculture.*

*Agriculture.*—Since the turnip husbandry commenced, much greater quantities of corn have been raised in the parish. In the year 1775, one farm produced no more rough bear, than what was necessary to sow the ground again, pay the servants their proportion of wages, and maintain the family. The same farm, within these three years, produced barley for these necessary purposes (which is superior to bear 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. the boll,) and from it were sold 240 bolls, in the Lothian markets, at 18 s. the boll and upwards. The proprietors, sensible of the industry and activity of their tenants, have adopted a wise plan to promote further improvements, by giving them a renewal for 21 years, several years previous to the expiration of the old leases.

*Church.*—The king is undoubted patron of this parish. In 1767 the Earl of Home claimed the patronage, and raised an action of declarator, when, after a litigation of 18 months, his claim was dismissed for want of evidence. The incumbent, in consequence of that decision, was settled in 1770. The number of heritors is 8. None of them reside in the parish.

*Poor.*—The poor are regularly supplied by a meeting of the heritors, minister and elders, who assess the parish half yearly for that purpose. Their numbers have been from 12 to 24, young and old, yearly. In 1783 oat-meal was at 2 s. 6 d. and upwards, the stone, bear and pease-meal were scarcely to be had. The heritors of the parish gave money to the kirk-session, to enable them to sell oat-meal to poor householders at a discount of 8 d. and 6 d. the stone, which was of great use to preserve them from want. White pease were imported at Leith and Fisherrow in spring and summer. The farmers and minister brought white pease from Leith,  
 &c.

&c. carriage free, and then fold the meal at the prime coft of the peafe at Leith, to all in the parifh who had no horfes of their own; this was continued for five months.

*Wages, Fuel.*—Men fervants wages are L. 6 and L. 7 a-year; women's L. 3 and L. 4.; day-labourers get 1 s. a-day, more or lefs according to ability; mafons 1 s. 8 d. carpenters 1 s. 6 d. tailors 1 s. Peat and turf is the common fuel, but from the expence of labour to obtain them, coals are more ufed than formerly, though purchafed at 1 s. the hundred weight, or brought 24 miles from the Lothians.

*Antiquities.*—There are two farms in the parifh, called Rumbleton and Rumbletonlaw, which, tradition fays, is a corruption of Romantown and Romantownlaw. At the latter farm, there were lately appearances of extenfive fortifications on a law or hill, which is now all plowed over, and inclofures made with the ftones. At Huntly there are remains of walls, like fome caftle or fortified place. Near the manfe, appearances of fortifications ftill remain, and the place ftill retains the name of *the Caftles*. There it would appear the anceftors of the Duke of Gordon's family had formerly refided.

*Manufactures and Commerce.*—There have been, for many years, three corn mills driven by water, employed in grinding corn for the Lothian markets; which have manufactured more than ten or twelve thousand bolls in one year. The mill mafers, and many other people called meal-makers, drive the meal to Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Muffelburgh, Pref-tonpans, &c. Formerly they ufed to carry it on horfes backs; but, for upwards of 25 years paff, fince the turnpike roads were made through Berwickfhire, they have carried it in  
carts,

carts, drawn by two horses, and, in return, they bring salt, coals, merchant goods, oysters, iron, wood for building, and great quantities of burnt limestone, which greatly forwards the improvements in husbandry.

*Miscellaneous facts and Observations.*—During more than 30 years, only one estate has been bought or sold. The rest have all gone by succession. By the sale of that estate and successions since, the property has been in five different hands during the course of 24 years. Some families have been, for many generations, in the same farms. One of them had been proprietors of the land they now rent: Another of these families say, that their forefathers have been in the farm for 200 years, and the other two, that their ancestors have been 300 years in the farms\*.

The roads are repaired by converting the statute labour, according to an act of Parliament passed 16 or 18 years ago. But there is still little amendment made, consequently they are in very bad order. The best land is let at 20 s. a guinea, and L. 1, 3 s. the acre. The inferior at all prices, according to comparative value: 110 acres of moor lands were feued 3 or 4 years ago, the best quality at L. 5 the acre, the second best at L. 3, and the worst at L. 1 16 s. with 1 s. the acre of feu annually. The people are sensible of the great benefit of inclosing land.

A rage for raising tobacco prevailed in 1782, and many acres of the best land were occupied with it, which diminished the crops of corn. But a bill, passed in parliament in 1783,  
cured

\* A great grandmother of one of the present tenants, in one of these farms, told his neighbour, who died not many years ago, that she stood in her own door, and saw the walls of Home Castle beat down by Oliver Cromwell's cannon.

cured the frenzy. That bill allowed only 4 d. the pound for the tobacco, though it was no illicit trade; whereas, to many, 1 s. the pound would scarcely have paid the price of land rent, the expence of labour, &c.

The manner of living, dress, and manners of the people are greatly improved, within these last 20 years. Learning, in particular, is more generally diffused than formerly, in proof of which it may be remarked, that several of the farmers here, have become subscribers to the public libraries in the neighbouring town of Kelso, by which they are enabled to acquire an extent of knowledge and information, to which, otherwise, they could not have had access.

N U M-

## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF PITSLIGO.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES GREIG, Minister of that Parish.**Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish belongs to the presbytery of Deer, and Synod of Aberdeen\*. It lies along the Murray Frith, in a rectangular form, its eastern extremity being two miles west from Kinnaird's head, a conspicuous point in Aberdeenshire, where a light-house was lately erected by government. It extends 3 miles and a half in length westward, and is 3 miles broad in every part, from the sea-coast to the south. A public road, leading from Frazerburgh westward to Banff, intersects it nearly in the middle, from which there is a gentle declivity on each side, to the south and north.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The face of the country is, in general, level, there being no hill in the parish; neither is there any river or lake in it, nor so much as a considerable stream.

In

\* It is the last erected parish within that presbytery. The lands of Pit-tendrum were formerly in the parish of Frazerburgh, and a few farms belonged to that of Tyrie, but the greatest part of it to Aberdour, from which it was disjoined, upon an application from Lord Pitligo, in 1634, about the time when he obtained his patent of peerage.

In summer, the mills can scarcely perform any work, owing to a deficiency of water; but there is a sufficient supply of that valuable element for the common purposes of life. As there is little marshy ground in the parish, there are seldom any fogs in it. The air is dry and wholesome, but the northerly storms are sometimes hurtful to the crops, as the country is destitute of trees, and every kind of shelter. On the south side of the road above mentioned, the soil is generally black and light, very well adapted for grafs, but not fit for producing weighty crops of grain. Towards the north, the soil is generally a yellow clay, which produces barley of a good quality, and is mostly all in tillage. In this quarter, the farmers make use of sea ware as a manure. They have likewise the advantage of an inexhaustible bank of sea shells, which extends along the whole coast; and a due quantity of which, when laid on the fields, produces the same effect as lime, marle, or any other calcareous substance. This parish abounds with stones of all sizes, and is therefore extremely well adapted for being laid out in inclosures.

*Cairns.*—On the side of the high road, from Frazerburgh to Banff, are some cairns or tumuli, about 60 feet in circumference at the base, composed of round stones, piled up in a conical shape to the height of 30 feet. There are several similar cairns in the neighbouring parishes, and they are evidently monumental repositories of the dead. On opening one of them some years ago, large flag stones were found placed in the ground, in the form of a chest or coffin, and containing ashes of burnt bones. Some arrow heads of flint were also found, but no weapons of metal of any kind; whence it may be conjectured, that they are of great antiquity. Tradition says, that they are the burying places of hostile invaders from Denmark or Norway, who were de-



feated in that neighbourhood, and seem to have been pursued with slaughter a great way along the coast, where several such tumuli are still to be seen.

*Trees.*—It has been a generally received opinion, that trees will not grow in this neighbourhood, by reason of the sea spray being hurtful to their vegetation; but with more probability, because of the N. W. winds, which sweep the whole face of the country, and check them in their growth. Yet it is certain, that the greatest part of this country must have been once covered with wood, as appears from the roots of very large oaks, still existing in mosses nigh the coast. Sir William Forbes of Pitligo has planted, within these few years, a piece of ground with forest trees of all kinds, adjoining to the old house or castle of Pitligo, and within about a mile of the sea, which hitherto seem to thrive very well. And this experiment will probably determine, whether the prejudice, against the possibility of rearing timber upon this coast, be well or ill founded.

*Manufactures, Fisheries, &c.*—A considerable quantity of kelp is made upon the shore of this parish, which is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in extent. At the distance of half a mile from its eastern extremity, is the fishing town of Pittaly, belonging to Sir William Forbes, which contains 23 houses, and 116 inhabitants. It sends 4 fishing boats to sea, with 6 men in each. Two miles further west is the fishing town of Roseheart, which employs 7 boats, with the same number of men in each. From autumn to the end of January, haddocks are the most valuable fish, being then in greatest perfection. When bought upon the shore, they cost 1s. the dozen, though 4 years ago, they were sold at 6d. This rise in the price is ascribed to the greater scarcity of fish, to their being  
of

of a larger size, and to the advanced price of provisions in general. The worst season for fishing is from January to March, little else being then caught but small cod. But in summer, besides cod, both skate and ling are taken in great abundance. In July and August, the greatest attention is paid to fishing for sea dogs, which are chiefly valuable for their oil. The value of lobsters has increased greatly of late. They are caught in numbers, and are sold at 2 d. or 2½d. a-piece for the London market. The fishermen salt up in casks the haddocks and cod taken during the winter, and in April, or, as soon as the season will permit, take them out and dry them. These, with what fish are caught and dried during the summer, they carry about in large boats, and dispose of among the different towns on the Frith of Forth, and bring home cargoes of coals and salt. It is said, that they get even lower prices for their fish in the south country, than at home; but to this the fishermen reply, that as they cannot dispose of the whole at home, it is of little advantage to sell a part; that they wish to make up a cargo, and receive a sum of money at once. Thus the price of the article is kept up in this part of the country.

*Village of Roseheart.*—Four miles west from Frasersburgh, upon the sea coast, is the village of Roseheart, which belongs to Lord Gardenston; and contains 42 houses, and 213 inhabitants. There are several shopkeepers in it, and mechanics, such as joiners, blacksmiths, coopers, turners, shoemakers, &c. Two merchants have shares of sloops, and import wood from Norway; they likewise bring groceries from the south country.

*Agriculture, Farms, &c.*—This parish is divided into farms of various extent. There are some of 200 acres, but the generality are much smaller. Some part of the land is  
the

the best in the country; other parts of it are very indifferent, so that it is not easy to ascertain the average rent. The best land, nigh the shore, where ware can easily be obtained, is let at from 20 s. to 30 s. an acre. Excepting one or two farms in the south part of this parish, the soil is not fit for producing oats: it yields more profitable crops of barley and beans, which last is prevailing generally; and a newly introduced practice, of drilling and hoeing them, is a great improvement to the crop and to the soil. Beans and oats are sown as early as the season will permit, commonly in the beginning of March; after which, the time is taken up in dunging and plowing the land for barley, which is the principal crop nigh the coast, and which is sown during the last three weeks of May. The month of June is occupied in preparing the ground for turnips, and sowing them. The remaining part of the summer is employed in making hay, drying and leading home peats, and repairing the highways until harvest, which lasts commonly through the months of September and October. Most of the farmers sow small quantities of flax, which they sell to manufacturers, when spun into yarn, or employ for the use of their own families.

*Cattle, Produce, &c.*—The chief articles, which the farmer has to dispose of, are, first, black cattle, which, for some years have sold high, and have been of considerable advantage to this country. The number kept upon each farm has, of late, been as large as it will maintain. The highest price of an ordinary ox is L. 10 Sterling, but the prices are very various, bearing proportion to the quality, and the demand which may be at the time. Most farmers rear what horses are necessary for themselves, but they do not pay so great attention to the breeding of horses for sale, as of black cattle. As this parish contains no extensive pastures, there are but few

few sheep in it. The common kind are sold at 10 s. each; those of the English breed are reckoned worth double that sum. The next principal commodities, which the farmers dispose of, are meal and grain. A small proportion only is sold in the country, as most of the inhabitants have crofts of their own. Meal is exported to Norway, or sold in the western isles; grain is commonly disposed of in the Frith of Forth. Barley weighs from 16 to 20 stone the boll, of 16 pecks; the price is from 8 d. to 10 d. the stone. Beans are sold at 12 s. 6 d. the boll of 3 firlots, oats at from 10 s. to 12 s. the boll of 4 firlots; and oat meal at from 10 s. to 13 s. the boll of 8 stone. Butter and cheefe are also articles for which the farmers draw a considerable sum yearly. Some advantage is likewise derived from the labour of women servants within doors, who are employed, especially in winter, in spinning linen yarn, or making cloth.

*Wages.*—The wages of a labouring man in summer is 8 d. the day. Most of these labourers rent a small piece of land, at about L. 2 Sterling yearly, upon which they keep a cow, and raise grain to assist in supporting their families. Thus they live pretty comfortably. But no complaints are made by such as have not this advantage, except when they have large families, or are visited with sickness. The daily wages of a mason are 1 s. 4 d.; of a joiner 1 s.; but other mechanics are commonly paid, not by the day, but by the piece. The wages of a man servant are L. 5 Sterling yearly, and of a woman, L. 2, 10 s. besides victuals.

*Fuel.*—One of the most expensive articles in this place is fuel, the moss, where peats are got, being five miles distant. Peats are estimated by the *lect*, which is a solid body, piled up like bricks, 24 feet long, and 12 feet broad at bottom, and

12 feet high. This quantity is not sufficient for an ordinary farmer one year; it costs L. 1, 10s. for cutting it out and drying it in the mofs, and when brought to this place, it is worth about L. 5 Sterling. The farmers bring home their peats with their own horses, in the end of summer; but it is a laborious and expensive work, and detains them long from the improvement of the land. English coals are sold here at 5s. the boll of 36 stone; Scotch coals at 4s. 6d. The high duty upon coals, which are brought to the north country, is justly complained of, as an *improper* and *partial* tax. Were that article furnished at a moderate expence, it would be one of the most important advantages which this country could receive. In this case, the more judicious farmers would shew an example of the use of coals to others, and devote their time more closely to the cultivation of the soil. But whatever improvements are or may be proposed here, either with respect to agriculture or manufactures, the dearth of fuel, is, and must continue to be an obstacle, which, without the aid of the Legislature, can never be removed.

*Population.*—The number, returned to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1224. The number of people, at present in this parish, (*anno* 1791) is 1300, viz. of males 600, of females 700. There is therefore an increase of 76; of these there are under 10 years of age 400; above it, 900. With respect to religious persuasion, there are 50 Episcopalians, and 20 Seceders. The annual average of births for some time past has been 34, of deaths 18, and of marriages 9.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—The mansion-house of Pitligo, (now in ruins,) the gardens and adjoining farm, the seat of the ancient Lords of Pitligo, to the extent of 2 miles along the coast, belong to Sir William Forbes of Pitligo, the representative

representative of that family. The remaining part of the estate of Pitflico, extending about a mile and a half along the sea-coast, belongs to Lord Gardenston. The lands of Pittaly and Pittendrum belong to Sir William Forbes, having been lately purchased by him, from the deceased William Cumine, Esq; of Pittaly. The rest of the parish is the property of Lord Saltoun, and of Alexander Frazer, Esq; of Strichen. The valued rent of Pitflico is L. 2400 Scotch.

*Eminent Men.*—The first minister of this parish was Mr Andrew Cant, who had formerly been chaplain in Lord Pitflico's family. From this place he removed to Aberdeen, where he is said to have preached before K. Charles II. after his return from the continent, but before his Restoration. The Spectator mentions this Mr Andrew Cant, No. 147, where he says, that he was minister of an illiterate part in the north of Scotland, and derives the term *canting* from his name, though it seems more probably to have been derived from the Latin.

*Church.*—The King is patron. The manse was built about 22 years ago; but the church stands much in need of reparation, which, it is hoped, will take place in a short time. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 65 Sterling.

*Poor.*—The capital of the poor's funds belonging to this parish, is about L. 100 Sterling, the greatest part of which is lent at interest; and the weekly collections amount to L. 22 Sterling yearly. The number of poor, at present receiving charity, is 28, to each of whom the kirk-session distributes yearly 16s. sometimes more or less, according to their necessities. This cannot support the poor; it only  
 assists

assists them. There are some, however, in greater necessity, who receive yearly more than twice that sum. The poor in Sir William Forbes's lands, and in other parts of the parish, have been greatly assisted for some time past, by liberal donations of meal and money from that gentleman.

*Improvements Suggested.*—This parish presents a very obvious means of improvement in agriculture, which is, to divide and inclose the ground with stone dikes, or other fences. There is no spot in the country better adapted for that purpose. The inclosures ought to be so contrived as to contain water in them; and if proper terms were concerted between the heritors and their tenants, for inclosing the fields, it would contribute greatly to the convenience of the farmer, and the melioration of the soil. The heritors seem to be sensible of the propriety of this improvement, and are taking measures for carrying it into effect. Sir William Forbes has lately, at his own expence, inclosed and laid out in grass about 100 acres of his lands in this parish. Mr William Gordon has inclosed about the same extent of a farm, which he holds in lease from Lord Gardenston, and has, in a very few years, brought the land into a state of high improvement\*.

Another improvement, which this place stands greatly in need of, is the introduction of manufactures, by which employment might be given to more hands, and more money brought into circulation. Between Peterhead and Banff, which is a distance of nearly 40 miles, there is no manufacture of importance. Hence the large towns have increased greatly, and the country is drained of people and of money.

Might

\* An error still prevails, among many farmers in this place, of keeping too many small horses, and doing no work with oxen, which are on many accounts more profitable.

Might it not be proper for the heritors of the parish, who are all very respectable gentlemen, and distinguished for attention to the interests of their country, to attempt the establishment of some suitable manufactures in it? In a place where living is cheaper than in large towns, they certainly might be expected to succeed, with very little encouragement.

The last improvement, which the parish stands much in need of, is the making of a harbour at Roseheart. There is already a quay, or one side of a harbour at that place, where sloops lie between April and September. But even then, so changeable is the weather, that they are in danger of sustaining great damage. This brings an additional expence upon trade, as goods must be brought from Frazerburgh, the nearest port, by land carriage. Lord Gardenston has generously ordered a considerable sum of money to be laid out in the improvement of this harbour, and measures will soon be taken for carrying that public spirited intention into effect. This is a necessary and important alteration; and it is hoped it will be the means of introducing other essential improvements.



## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF SCOONIE.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID SWAN.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

NO satisfactory account can be given of the origin of the name. In old records, it is written *Skuny*. The old church was situated upon a small eminence, like an artificial mound, still employed as a burying ground, with a deep hollow on all sides. Such as are acquainted with the Erse language may, perhaps, be able to trace some connection between the name and situation. Like the names of many other places in this country, it is probably of Celtic origin. The parish is situated in the county of Fife, and presbytery of Kirkcaldy; from which place it is 9 statute miles distant. It is about 5 miles long, from south to north; and nearly two miles in breadth. At the N. E. extremity, the three parishes of Scoonie, Largo, and Ceres, and the three presbyteries of Kirkcaldy, St Andrew's, and Cupar, meet in one point.

The ground rises by a gentle slope, all the way from the Forth, nearly to the north end of the parish; and almost every part of it commands an extensive and beautiful view of the Forth, Leith, Edinburgh, and the Lothians, from St Abb's head to the Queensferry: The greatest part of the

the parish is inclosed with ditch and hedge: There are no hills, but several swells or risings of the ground, which, with belts and clumps of planting, afford a finely variegated prospect.

*Soil, Climate.*—There are not 10 acres of unarable ground in the whole district, but the soil is of different kinds: The southern and lower part of the parish, comprehending about two thirds of it, consists partly of a dry sharp soil, yielding good crops of all sorts of grain, and of excellent quality, except in very dry weather; and partly of a rich heavy loam, yielding large crops in all seasons. The northern and higher part of the parish is a moist black soil, of which a large proportion is generally in pasture, for which it is well adapted; and when broke up, after lying 8 or 10 years, yields two or three very heavy crops. The climate in the lower part of the parish is, in general, very mild and temperate; but the E. and S. E. winds, blowing from the sea, are, especially in the spring months, extremely sharp and penetrating. In the northern part of the parish, the climate is more unkindly, and the harvest two or three weeks later, owing to the greater moisture of the soil, and its more elevated situation. The inhabitants are, in general, healthy, and not subject to any epidemical disease. Inoculation has not yet become so general as in some other parts of the country, but the people's prejudices against it are gradually subsiding.

*Produce, Agriculture.*—The crops in the lower part of the parish are wheat, pease and beans, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, cabbage, flax and grafs. Almost all the ground, designed for pasture, is sown with artificial grafs. In the higher part of the parish, the crops are, barley, oats, potatoes, a small proportion of pease, some turnips and flax.

There

There is scarce any flax raised, excepting what is for private use. The produce of oats, pease and potatoes, is wholly consumed in the parish, and a considerable quantity of oat meal is brought from the inland parts of the country. There is no fixed mode of cultivation. Wheat is sometimes sown after fallow, drilled beans, potatoes, or grafs that has lain a year or two. Some fields produce wheat and beans alternately, and generally yield very good crops. Every farmer raises a considerable quantity of turnips, which are now employed rather for rearing young beasts, than in feeding cattle for the market. Since the price of black cattle has been advanced to such a rate, the farmers have reared a much larger quantity than formerly. Such as occupy a farm of 200 acres or so, raise annually 14 or 16 calves, which are sold at 2, 3, or 4 years old. Veal is now become a very rare article in our markets.

Within these 20 years, there is a very great alteration in the mode of plowing. In place of 4 horses, or 4 and sometimes 6 oxen, yoked in one plough, the land is now generally plowed with 2 horses; one man holding the plough and managing the horses.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4692, 8 s. Scotch, and the real rent L. 2000 Sterling. Land lets at from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 3 Sterling *per* acre. In large farms with old leases, the rent is from 5 s. to 15 s. But as the leases expire, there is always a very considerable rise. Pasture grounds let at from L. 1, to L. 1, 10 s. *per* acre.

*River and Fishing.*—The river of Leven, which hath its source from the lake of that name, runs along the south side of this parish, from west to east, and takes a turn to the south, about a quarter of a mile before it is discharged into the  
the

the fea. It abounds with excellent trout of various kinds; and at the mouth of the river, there is a falmon fishing, which belongs to the estate of Durie. The greatest part of the falmon caught here is carried over land to Perth, or Newburgh, where they are shipped for the London market. On this river there are from 36 to 40 mills, of different descriptions, within the space of 11 or 12 miles.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1528 souls. The number of inhabitants in this parish at present; (*anno* 1791,) is 1675; consequently the increase amounts to 147.

Abstract of marriages and births for the last 7 years.

Years.	Mar.	Males baptised.	Fem.	Total baptised.
1784	16	22	21	43
1785	11	21	20	41
1786	8	26	20	46
1787	18	15	16	31
1788	10	19	13	32
1789	8	24	27	51
1790	14	14	23	37

Of deaths no accurate register can be kept, the dead being interred in different burying grounds in the neighbourhood, and no account given of them. It is to be observed, that the number of births and marriages has not increased in proportion to the increase of the gross number; which must therefore be ascribed to the great influx of young people, of late years, employed in the manufactures. Of the whole inhabitants, there are not above 150 separatists from the established church, of whom nearly the one half are Burgher Seceders; 35 Antiburghers; 34 of the Relief Society; 2 Independents, and 3 Episcopalians.

*Heritors.*

*Heritors.*—There are seven large proprietors in the parish, and two small ones: Only two of the greater heritors reside in it, viz. Mr Christie of Durie, and Mr Tullidolph of Kilmux. The proprietor of Durie possesses above three fifths of the valued rent of the parish. The house of Durie is an elegant modern building, situated on a rising ground, about a mile north from the Forth, and commanding a most delightful prospect; with an extensive policy, laid out in very good taste. Few places in the country can boast of a more eligible situation. No estate in the parish is under entail.

*Eminent Men.*—Till within these few years, the estate of Durie had been, for near two centuries, the property of the respectable family of Gibson, some of whom were particularly eminent in the law department. One of that family was Lord Register, and another a Lord of Session. Of the latter an anecdote is reported, which strongly marks the barbarity of the times. There being an important cause between two noblemen, in dependence before the Court of Session, Lord Durie, while taking an airing on the sands of Leith, was forcibly carried off by one of them, in order to prevent him from giving his vote at the decision of the cause, which the party apprehended would be unfavourable to his interest.

But of all the eminent men born in this parish, none has been more remarkable for genius and learning, than Mr Jerome Stone. His father, (a reputable seafaring man,) dying abroad, when Jerome was but three years old, the mother, with her young family, was left in very narrow circumstances. Jerome, like the rest of the children, having got the ordinary school education, reading English, writing and arithmetic, betook himself to the business of a travelling chapman. But the dealing in buckles, garters, and such small articles,  
not

not suiting his superior genius, he soon converted his little flock into books, and, for some years, went through the country, and attended the fairs as an itinerant bookseller. There is great reason to believe, that he engaged in this new species of traffic, more with a view to the improvement of his mind, than for any pecuniary emolument. Formed by nature for literature, he possessed a peculiar talent for acquiring languages with amazing facility. By a strange predilection, he first applied to the study of the Hebrew and Greek; and, by a wonderful effort of genius and application, made himself so far master of these languages, without any kind of assistance, as to be able to interpret the Hebrew Bible and Greek Testament into English *ad aperturam libri*. At this time he did not know one word of Latin. Sensible that he could make no great progress in learning, without the knowledge of Latin grammar, he made application to the then parish schoolmaster, Mr John Tuscan, (who is still alive), for his assistance. Some time after, by the countenance and patronage of the late Reverend and learned Principal Tullidolph, an heritor of this parish, he was encouraged to prosecute his studies at the University of St Andrew's. An unexampled proficiency in every branch of literature recommended him to the esteem of the Professors: and an uncommon fund of wit and pleasantry rendered him, at the same time, the favourite of all his fellow students, some of whom speak of him to this day, with an enthusiastic degree of admiration and respect. About this period, some very humorous poetical pieces of his composition were published in the Scots Magazine. Before he had finished his third session at St Andrew's, on an application to the College, by the Rector of the school of Dunkeld, for an assistant, Mr Stone was recommended as the best qualified for that office; and about two or three years after, the Rector being removed

moved to Perth, Mr Stone, by the favour of his Grace the Duke of Atholl, who had conceived a high opinion of his abilities, was promoted to the rectorship.

When he first went to Dunkeld, he entertained but an unfavourable opinion of the Erse language, which he considered as a barbarous gibberish : But in order to investigate the origin and descent of the ancient Scots, he applied to the study of their primitive language. Having, with his usual assiduity, endeavoured to master its grammatical difficulties, he set himself to discover something of its true genius and character. He collected a number of ancient poems, the productions of Irish or Scottish bards, which, he said, were daring, innocent, passionate and bold. Some of these poems he translated into English verse; which several persons now alive have seen in manuscript, before Mr Macpherson published any of his translations from Ossian.

He died while he was writing and preparing for the press, a Treatise, entitled an " Inquiry into the Original of the " Nation and Language of the ancient Scots, with conjectures " about the primitive state of the Celtic and other European " nations ;" an idea which could not have been conceived by an ordinary genius. In this treatise, he proves, by the clearest reasoning, that the Scots drew their original, as well as their language, from the ancient Gauls. Had Mr Stone lived to finish this work, which discovers great ingenuity, immense reading, and indefatigable industry, it would have thrown much light upon the dark and early periods of the Scottish history, as he opens a new and plain path, for leading us through the unexplored labyrinths of antiquity. But a fever put a period to his life, his labours and his usefulness, in the year 1757, being then only in the 30th year of his age. He left, in manuscript, a much esteemed and well

well known allegory, entitled "the Immortality of Authors," which has been published, and often reprinted since his death, and will be a lasting monument of a lively fancy, sound judgment, and correct taste. It was no small ornament of this extraordinary character, that he paid a pious regard to his aged mother, who survived him two years, and received an annual pension from the Duchess of Atholl, as a testimony of respect to the memory of her son.

*Village of Leven.*—The only village in the parish is Leven, which belongs to the barony of Durie, and is situated upon the east bank of the river, where it runs into the sea. It contains 335 families, and 1165 inhabitants. The rents of houses are from 10s. to L.8 Sterling. There are 6 trading vessels of from 90 to 140 or 150 tons, belonging to this port, employed mostly in the Holland and East sea trade. There is no port on the coast of Fife better calculated for the timber and iron trade, having easy access, by roads perfectly level, to a populous adjacent country; and the head of the river affording a safe and commodious harbour. The beach is sandy, and the shore quite flat.

*Commerce.*—There is a fair in the spring for lintseed, and one every month, from May to October, for white linen. There are two inns in the town, and six small beer brewers, besides four or five ale and porter houses, &c.

*Minerals.*—There are very extensive seams of coal in the estate of Durie, which have been wrought for upwards of a century. One seam is of an excellent quality, and used to be exported from Leven to Holland, where it met with a more ready sale, than most of the other coals carried from



this part of the country. This seam, so far as it could be drained by the present water engine, is now exhausted. The seams now working are of an inferior quality, but answer for land sale, and furnish fuel for two or three salt pans, which are very productive. By an additional engine, the proprietor will have the command of a large field of the principal or better seam.

*Manufactures.*—The chief manufacture in the parish is that of brown linen, from 8 d. to 10 d. a yard. A considerable quantity is whitened, and sold at from 10 d. to 20 d. and some of a finer texture from 2 s. to 4 s. a yard. There are about 140 looms in the parish, mostly employed in that manufacture. In the near neighbourhood of Leven, there is an extensive bleachfield, which may employ about 16 or 18 hands. The business is yearly increasing, as the people's prejudices against public bleaching are daily wearing off. There is also a considerable roperie established at Leven, and a good number of shoemakers are constantly employed in making shoes for public sale.

*Church.*—The church, a neat and modern building, with a spire, was erected about 16 years ago, in the immediate neighbourhood of Leven, being more convenient for the greater part of the parish, than the old situation at Scoonie, which is about half a mile distant. The Manse has been inhabited above 15 years, and is situated within an hundred yards of the church. The right of patronage, which belonged formerly to the priory of St Andrew's, is vested in the Crown. The stipend consists of  $54\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of bear, 44 bolls meal,  $29\frac{1}{2}$  oats, and 4 bolls wheat, with L. 25 Sterling.  
in.

in money, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 for communion elements, besides the manse and glebe\*.

*Poor.*—There are no begging poor in this parish. About 15 or 16 families receive from 6 d. to 1 s. of weekly supplies, according to their respective circumstances. Three or four have a small monthly allowance, besides occasional charities given to families in distress. The members of the kirk-session are very careful, in guarding, on the one hand, against impositions, and, on the other, that no necessitous person be neglected. The only funds for the support of the poor, are the weekly collections at the church doors, amounting to about L. 26; the collection at the communion, dispensed twice a year, L. 11; seat rents L. 4, and a trifling sum arising from the mort-cloth, amounting all together to about L. 45 or L. 46 Sterling *per annum*.

*General Character.*—The people in this parish are, in general, sober, industrious, and thriving. If any behave in an irregular and disorderly manner, they are avoided by their neighbours, it being reckoned discreditable to be seen in their company. They are social in their tempers, liberal in their sentiments, respectful to their superiors, and hospitable to strangers; regular in attending upon the public institutions

\* As a tribute to the memory of a worthy clergyman, it may be proper to mention, that Mr Thomas Melvill, the late incumbent, who was settled in 1718, being, by years and infirmity, laid aside from duty, was obliged to employ an assistant; and, understanding that the admission of his assistant to be his successor, would be acceptable to the parish, he, to make way for his succession, although he had no natural connection with him, readily and generously resigned his charge in 1764, ending his days 3 years after, in a state of the most chearful tranquillity.

tions of religion, and remarkable for external decency in the house of God. Few people are more compassionate to the indigent, or contribute more liberally to their support, not only by their public collections, but by private donations. Such as separate from the established church, have little of that reserve or moroseness, which is the general characteristic of separatists of almost all denominations. There have been, as in all societies, some idle worthless persons among them; but in the memory of man, there has not been one convicted of a capital crime.

*Schools.*—There is one established grammar school in the parish. The master, who is fully qualified for his office, teaches English, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, the practical parts of mathematics, and navigation. There is a commodious school, and school-house furnished by the heritors. The salary is L. 200 Scotch, and, with the other emoluments, may amount to L. 40 Sterling a year. There are, besides, two or three small schools, in which young children are taught to read English, at the very easy rate of 1 d. *per* week.

*Antiquities.*—The only antiquities this parish can boast of, are some stone coffins, which have been found to the eastward of the river, with human bones, supposed to have been deposited there in the 9th century, when a battle was fought upon these grounds between the Scots and the Danes.

*Advantages.*—It is no small advantage to this parish, particularly to the town of Leven, that they have no connection with corporation or borough politics, which, for the most part, are attended with such bad effects upon the industry and morals of the people. The manufacturers have the benefit  
of

of a ready money market for their cloth, as soon as cut from the loom, without travelling 100 yards from their own doors. It is also a matter of great conveniency to have a Post-office at Leven, with an arrival every day from Edinburgh, Monday excepted, and a departure every day, except Saturday. The turnpike road, from Kirkcaldy to the east coast of Fife, intersects the parish in a straight line from west to east, at the distance of about half a mile from the town of Leven, and the turnpike road from Kirkcaldy to Cupar, by Cameron bridge, runs diagonally through the northern part of the district. In a short time, there will be an excellent road from the shore of Leven to Cupar, the county town, which is distant about 10 statute miles. The principal advantage of the parish, is, the having abundance of coal in the near neighbourhood, the ordinary fuel of the poorest families. Peats are a sort of rarity, of which some families purchase a small quantity yearly, for their conveniency. To all these advantages, it may be added, that every person in health, may, with moderate industry, earn a comfortable livelihood.

*Disadvantages.*—As Leven is a thoroughfare from the west to the east coast of Fife, the inhabitants are much oppressed with beggars and vagrants. Largely as they contribute to the support of the indigent among themselves, they complain, that they give three or four times more to stranger poor. It is an obvious defect in the police of this country, that no effectual method is devised for restraining vagrant beggars, who lay the public under such heavy contributions. It may, perhaps, be said, that the people are not obliged to serve them: But such as are acquainted with the state of the country, know well, that while these vagrants are permitted to go about, the people *must* give them something.  
It

It is a considerable inconvenience to this parish, that there is no bridge upon the Leven, nearer than Cameron, about 2 miles up the river. But there are two good fords in the neighbourhood, always passable, except in high floods, or for an hour or two at high water, during spring tides; and near the town, there is also a coble or boat for passengers. It is likewise a very great inconvenience, not only to this parish, but to travellers in general, that there is no bridge over Scoonie river, upon the great turnpike road to the east coast. The waters often regorged with such banks of ice upon each side, that there is no passage for carriages, but with manifest danger. Though in summer it is almost dry, yet the water sometimes rises to such a height, as not to be fordable with safety. Some years ago, a farmer and his wife attempting to cross upon horseback, were carried a considerable way down the stream; the woman not less than 400 or 500 yards. Had they not been seen, and opportunely assisted by the neighbourhood, both of them must inevitably have perished.

It is to be hoped, for the credit of the gentlemen of the district, that this inconveniency will soon be remedied. The want of good free-stone quarries has been a great discouragement to building in this parish, as stones cannot be got, but with much labour and expence. Nevertheless the greater part of this parish have reason to acknowledge with gratitude, the goodness of a wise and gracious Providence, which hath rendered their situation, upon the whole, so easy and comfortable.

NUMBER

NUMBER VII.

TOWN AND

PARISH OF DUMFRIES.

*Drawn up from the Communications of the Rev. Mr WILLIAM  
BURNSIDE, one of the Ministers of that Town.*

---

INTRODUCTION.

CITIES, towns and villages, generally owe their origin to some natural or accidental advantage of situation. The bottom of a bay, the mouth of a river, a fertile plain, the protection of a fortress, or the sanctity of a place of religious worship, invite men, even in the rudest times, to assemble and settle together. Where any numbers of mankind meet, it unavoidably happens, that they must often mutually compare, combine, and oppose their abilities and exertions. Human industry and genius, become, in these circumstances, more vigorous and active; and what was, at first, disfigured by the scattered huts of a few rude and helpless savages, comes, by degrees, to be improved into a splendid or commodious city.

*Situation*

*Situation of Dumfries.*—The town of Dumfries is situated in  $55^{\circ} 8' 30''$  of northern latitude; and, as nearly as has been ascertained,  $4^{\circ} 25' 15''$  from Greenwich. It stands upon the banks of the river Nith, about 9 miles above where the river discharges itself into the Solway frith. It is the capital of the shire distinguished by its name, and the seat of a presbytery and of a synod.

*Antient State.*—Of the precise period, at which it was founded, no record has been preserved. The Selgovæ, who seem to have been a tribe of the Cumbri, the most ancient inhabitants of the southern parts of Britain, were found by the Romans in the tract of country, comprehended in the present shire of Dumfries, and in the S. E. part of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The Roman province of Valentia, bounded by the two walls between Solway and Tyne, and between Forth and Clyde, extended over Dumfries-shire and Galloway, with the other intermediate counties between those boundaries. After the Romans had relinquished Britain, a new kingdom, founded by Ida and the Angles, in 1547, spread its authority from North Cumberland, over the southern and western parts of Valentia. The Picts penetrating to the N. and N. E. dismembered Galloway and Dumfries-shire from the Northumbrian monarchy, and established themselves in these districts, in the end of the 8th century.

But, although the situation of the town of Dumfries be nearly at the most southern part, where the Nith has ever been fordable, and consequently at the very place where, it is likely, that this river would be passed most generally, in travelling between the north of England and the western parts of Scotland; yet the authors, who have commemorated the above particulars, concerning the ancient inhabitants

tants of the neighbouring country make no mention of any town or village existing in those times, that can be thought to have been the same with Dumfries. Ptolemy, in his geography of Britain, speaks of the Novios, by which he is easily discerned to mean the Nith; but says nothing of any town seated any where upon the banks of this river.

*Constitution of the Burgh.*—Dumfries is, in its municipal constitution, a Royal Burgh. The mechanics are divided into 7 different incorporations. A deacon from each of these corporations, with 12 merchant councillors, a treasurer, a dean of guild, 3 bailies, and a provost, making altogether 25 members, compose the town-council. The deacons of the trades are annually chosen by the freemen of the several incorporations. The new council are elected by their predecessors in office. The mode of election is somewhat particular. Previous to the election of magistrates, the old council choose four merchant councillors in addition to the irnumber. These, with the ordinary members of the council, make up 22, exclusive of the deacons of the trades. At the election, although there be only 7 deacons of incorporations, the trades enjoy, (in consequence of a contract,\* entered into in 1623, between the merchant councillors, and the representatives of the trades), no fewer than 11 votes, which are half as many as are given by the other members of the council. Although the election be annual, the same persons are usually continued for two years in office. But 4 of those who

VOL. V.

Q

have

\* It has been alledged, that when this contract was executed, the dyers, bonnet-makers, maltsters, and waukers, might also enjoy, or at least claimed the privileges of distinct corporations, which they have since lost.



have been merchant councillors, must be every year excluded, and 4 new members succeed in their room. The newly elected office-bearers, therefore, with the 7 deacons of the corporations, and the 4 new merchant councillors proceed to purge the council, by the exclusion of 4 of the old members.

*Armorial Bearing.*—The ancient arms of the town are said to have been a cheveron, with 3 fleurs de lis, which are still to be seen on the front of the prison. The stone which bears them may have been a part of the old prison, which is said to have been built 350 years ago. But instead of these arms, St Michael, (who was venerated in Popish times as the tutelary saint of Dumfries,) represented with wings, a pastoral staff in his hand, and treading a serpent under his feet, has been used for these many years, as the armorial bearing of the burgh. The motto *Alorburn*, is now unintelligible; nor can its etymology ever be certainly traced. It is believed to have been a watchword. Some think it is a corruption of the French words *ALORS BIEN*; but it is more generally supposed to mark the place, where the townsmen of Dumfries used anciently to assemble in arms, (upon the approach of an enemy from the borders of England,) by the side of a rivulet, which still retains the name of the *lower or lorburn*.

*Markets.*—The community of this burgh, among their other privileges, are empowered to hold 2 weekly markets, upon Wednesday and Friday; and three annual fairs, one on Rood day in October, and the other two in the beginning of February and July. The fair in July, and the weekly market upon Friday have, indeed, fallen into disuse.

Brieves,

Brieves, however, are still executed on Friday, as a market day.

*Revenue.*—The revenue of the town may be estimated at L. 1300 Sterling a-year, besides L. 220 annually raised, in virtue of an act of parliament lately obtained, for the better regulation of the police in Dumfries. The latter fund is placed under the direction of a particular council, or committee, consisting of 16 members, 8 of whom are chosen from the town-council, and as many from among the citizens at large. The provost presides at their meetings.

*Streets.*—The principal street of Dumfries extends full three quarters of a mile, the whole length of the town, in a direction parallel to the Nith. Towards the middle of the town, this street may be nearly 100 feet wide. Besides this, there are 7 or 8 other streets, and 5 or 6 lanes. The breadth of the town is, for two thirds of its length, from a quarter to the third part of a mile. The houses being built of brick and red free-stone, have a light and airy appearance. The situation of the town, rising gradually from the river, is beautiful and advantageous. It is allowed by strangers to be neat, and well built. It is very well lighted, and the pavements are likely to be, in a short time, much improved, by the application of the police tax to that purpose.

*Public Buildings.*—The town hall forms part of a building, erected about the beginning of this century, and rather incommodiouly placed in the middle of the high street. Under the hall are the weigh-house and town-guard house. This structure is also adorned with a steeple and spire. Nearly adjoining is the prison. The council chamber, in a  
separate

separate building, is decorated with portraits of King William and Queen Mary, and of the late Duke of Queensberry; the latter, a fine painting. A house of correction has been lately built. The gentlemen of the county meditate the erection of a new prison. A playhouse is now building. The inhabitants are already accommodated with an elegant suit of assembly rooms. There are 2 churches for the reception of the parochial congregations, belonging to the Established Church; an Episcopal chapel, and a Methodist, a Relief, and an Antiburgher Meeting-house. The bridge over the Nith, with occasional repairs and alterations, has been kept up for these 500 years\*. It is narrow, and begins to be ruinous; but the foundation is now laid of a new bridge, which will be much more spacious and elegant. The flesh-market is a square, shaded around, with proper conveniencies behind for slaughter. The Infirmary is a neat building. In a square, nearly in the middle of the town, there is a handsome Doric column, which was erected on a plan of Mr Robert Adams, 10 years ago, by the gentlemen of the county, to the memory of the late Duke of Queensberry.

*Commerce.*—The industry of this town is employed rather for the immediate accommodation of its own inhabitants, and of those of the adjacent country, than in any considerable manufacture of articles for distant markets, or in any extensive commercial transactions. Almost every branch of mechanical or commercial industry is, however, practised.

\* The toll paid for cattle, passing along the bridge, affords the town an yearly revenue of L. 200 a-year. It is levied at the rate of 3 s. 4 d. a score, Half the cattle that pass are Irish.

practised. Leather is made in 2 or 3 tan-works, which seem to succeed pretty well. Some stockings and hats too, and some small quantities of linen, and coarse woollen cloths have been manufactured here, with sufficient advantage. Such quantities of flour, meal, and barley are made in the mills belonging to the town, as to enable the tacksmen to pay L. 400 of yearly rent. These mills were lately burnt down, and have been rebuilt upon an excellent plan of Mr Meikle's. A company from Glasgow have of late attempted a tambour manufacture here, the success of which is generally and earnestly wished. It may be mentioned too, that there are from 1500 to 2000 dozen of hare skins annually sold in Dumfries.

*Banks.*—Branches of three different banks are established here, in which transactions to a very considerable amount are carried on.

*Trade and Shipping.*—The port of Dumfries extends from Southwick, in the parish of Colvend, up the Solway frith, to the foot of Sark water. In this whole track of coast, vessels receive and discharge cargoes no where, except in the river Nith, below Dumfries, and at Annan, where only a very small share of business is done. About 8 or 10 coasting vessels belong to this town, besides two or three which are employed in the Baltic, and in the wine trade. The annual *entries* and *clearances*, are, at an average for three years, ending the 5th of January 1789, as stated in the books of the Custom-house, as follows :

*Entered.*

*Entered.*

Coasting vessels, 167, whole tonnage, 5778  $\frac{2}{3}$  hands, 375  
 Foreign vessels, 20  $\frac{1}{2}$  - - - 1793  $\frac{1}{3}$ , — 120

*Cleared.*

Coasters, 152  $\frac{2}{7}$  - - 5464  $\frac{1}{3}$ , — 364  $\frac{2}{3}$   
 Foreign, 10 - - 480  $\frac{1}{3}$ , — 32

Forty years ago a considerable tobacco trade was carried on from Dumfries. At an average of four years, 1250 hogsheds were then annually imported. It is alledged, that the importation was considerably greater, and that in consequence of the detection of some attempts at smuggling, the trade in this article came to be discouraged. The coasting vessels bring in lime, coals, and merchant goods of various sorts; they export potatoes and grain.

Upon fair days, and upon the first Wednesdays after the terms of Martinmas and Whitfunday, great quantities of horses and black cattle are sold on the sands of Dumfries. Even on several of the other market days, cattle are to be bought here. Many thousands are annually sold.

*Inns, &c.*—As Dumfries enjoys the advantage of a very considerable thoroughfare, it has 2 principal inns, a coffee-house, and several taverns. But, upon an average, no fewer than 75 persons take out licences for the sale of spirituous liquors, and about 20 more may be annually fined for selling these without licences. The London mail coach passes through Dumfries every day of the week, and a daily post between Edinburgh and Port Patrick.

*Printing Office.*—A printing-house is established here, and a newspaper published weekly. Besides circulating public news, this paper is now found to be very useful, as a vehicle

cle for advertisements, to facilitate the transactions of business throughout the country.

*Schools.*—The establishments for education in Dumfries have long been in considerable reputation. There are schools for Latin and Greek; for writing, French and drawing; for arithmetic, and the various branches of mathematics; for English reading, and for dancing. These are almost all public establishments, under the protection and patronage of the magistrates, who, on every vacancy, are at great pains to fill the schools with teachers of character and ability. There are also two or three boarding schools for the education of young ladies.

*Courts, &c.*—As the capital of the county, Dumfries is naturally the seat of the Sheriff and of the Commissary Courts. The Commissioners of the land tax hold their meeting here. It has been already mentioned as the seat of a Presbytery and of a Synod. The Justiciary Court sits here during the spring and autumn circuits. Assemblies are held at these seasons, and never fail to bring together a considerable display of elegance and beauty. Here, too, the Justices of the Peace for the county hold their quarter sessions.

*Infirmary.*—The Dumfries Infirmary is an establishment, which it in some measure owes to the circumstance of its being the county town. It was established at first, and is still maintained by subscriptions, from the town and county of Dumfries, and from Galloway. It was opened in 1777, and the patients resorting to it, have, since that period, been gradually and uniformly increasing. Dr Gilchrist and Mr Alexander Copland, surgeon, have attended them, with

a degree of generous care, that does honour to the medical profession; and the institution seems to have hitherto fully answered the expectations and benevolent intention of its promoters.

*Roads.*—The roads passing through this town and neighbourhood, are, in general, in very good condition. Toll bars have been erected on those leading towards Edinburgh, Annan, and Lochmaben, within 4 or 5 miles of this town. The first of these roads was made 20 years ago, from a fund raised by subscription, at the head of which was the late Duke of Queensberry. About the beginning of the present century, a gentleman from England purchased a quantity of tobacco here, and paid down the money for it, but went away without directing whither it should be sent. Every enquiry after him proved fruitless. In consequence of this, the town at length obtained leave from the court of Exchequer to dispose of this tobacco, and apply the price, to the purpose of making a road, through Locker-moss, towards Annan. The other roads in the parish have been made, and are kept in repair, by the statute labour. This was converted into money, in 1777, at the rate of 12 s. the hundred merks of valuation from the county heritors, and of 1 s. 6 d. from every householder in town, who pays 15 s. of yearly rent.—The advantages arising from the improved state of the roads, within these 20 or 30 years, have no where been more sensibly felt, than in this parish and neighbourhood.

*Prices of Provisions.*—Butcher meat and poultry of all kinds, are sold at double their price twenty years ago. The natural progress of luxury, the increasing circulation of paper money, the additional taxes, and, of course,  
the

the raising of the rents have all concurred to produce this gradual rise on the price of provisions.

A pound of beef, of 16 ounces, is sold from 3 d. to 5 d.; mutton 3 d. to 4½ d.; veal 3 d. to 4½ d. lamb 3 d.; pork 3 d. to 4 d.; geese, each, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d.; ducks, from 6 d. to 8 d.; a pair of chickens, 7 d. to 8 d.; a pound of butter, 24 ounces, 7 d. to 9 d.; Scotch cheese, 3 d. The fiars of this county are struck by the peck. At an average for the six years ending in 1790, from the statements in the books of the Sheriff clerk, the value of the peck of wheat is 4 s.; of barley 2 s. 9 d.; of oats 1 s. 10 d. The Dumfries peck of oats and barley is accounted better than the Winchester bushel. The same measure of wheat one third less. The Winchester bushel of the best wheat weighs 60 lb. of 16 ounces each; barley 52 lb.; and oats 38. The Dumfries peck of wheat weighs only 45 lb.

*Prices of Labour.*—A labourer's wages are 1 s. a-day; for a few months in winter, he receives 2 d. or 3 d. less. Carpenters and masons have from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s.; tailors 6 d. and their victuals. Till within these very few years, the wages of carpenters, masons, bricklayers and slaters were 2 d. a-day less than at present. This rise has been occasioned, in a great measure, by the building of a number of new houses in the neighbourhood within these few years.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is coals from Sanquhar, or by water carriage from Cumberland, and peats from Locher-mofs. The coals cost from 7 d. to 9 d. *per* cwt, and are, after all, a cheaper article of fuel than the peats.

*Servant's Wages.*—A ploughman's wages are from 7 to 8 guineas a-year, with his board. Dairy maids have L. 3



or L. 4, and maid servants in town from 50 s. to L. 4. Men servants in town receive from L. 7 to L. 9.

*Wheel Carriages.*—No waggons belong to this town. The Carlisle waggon, drawn by six horses, comes hither once a-week and returns: Eight or 10 post-chaises are kept at the inns for the road. Five families in the parish keep each a four-wheeled chaise; and four have whiskies.

*Country Parish.*—Besides the town, the parish of Dumfries comprehends a considerable extent of country. The whole length, including the space occupied by the town, is about six miles; the breadth, at an average from 2 to 3. The Nith, bounding it on the W. and S. separates it from Holywood, from a small part of Terreagles, and from Troquire. On the N. W. and N. it is bounded by the parishes of Kirkmahoe and Tinwald; on the N. E. by Torthorwald; and on the E. and S. E. by Moufwald and Caerlaverock parishes. This tract of country may be considered as an extensive vale, spreading from the N. W. towards the Solway frith. A ridge of low hills, indeed, rises at the S. E. end of the town, and runs towards Caerlaverock, in a direction nearly parallel to the river. The hills, in general, which bound this plain, are either cultivated to the summit, or planted with clumps of wood; and the whole scene is very picturesque.

*Soil, Lochermofs.*—The soil of the N. E. side of the parish is a reddish earth, upon a freestone bottom; but that on the S. W. is, in general, a pretty strong clay. Near the confines of Torthorwald lies Lochermofs, an extensive morass, intersected by Locher water. The mofs, except where cultivation has gained a few fields from it, is one great dead flat, spreading from the head of the parish, along its N. E. and  
E.

E. fides, down to the Solway frith, and is at least 10 miles long, and from 2 to 3 broad. It seems to have been once an inlet from the Solway frith. A stratum of sea sand is found at certain depths, pieces of vessels, dug up in various parts of it, have been seen by persons who are still alive. A kind of a canoe, with an iron anchor or grapple, is said to have been found as far up as Tinwald-house. Large pieces of the roots and trunks of trees are also found in it, betwixt the surface and the sand. Indeed, many large trees, chiefly fir, have been found in this moss, and uniformly laid with their tops to the N. E. From these circumstances it should seem that this track must have been once covered with wood. Some have thought, that the Nith may have formerly emptied itself into the Frith, either in part or entirely by this channel. The summer of the year 1785 being very dry, the moss was, for a great way, dried like a common peat; and having been accidentally kindled, it burnt for a great extent, proceeding in a direction against the wind, till by the coming on of heavy rains, it was at length extinguished.

*Air and Water.*—The air here is rather moist, but the dryness of the soil, and the high winds, which occasionally prevail, obviate, in a great measure, the ill effects which might otherwise be produced by the moisture of the atmosphere. There are here and there in this parish a few small springs, and one in particular in the middle of Lochermoss, called *Crichton's well*, having a pretty strong impregnation of steel. There are 2 or 3 inconsiderable lakes. The Nith is navigable to the town in spring tides for vessels of 30 or 40 tons. A canal was once proposed to be drawn through Lochermoss, which, besides draining the moss, might have afforded navigation for small boats from the head of the moss to Solway frith. The estimate of the expence, as  
given

given by Mr Smeaton in 1754, amounted only to \* L. 2952. At the foot of the parish the Nith is about one third of a mile in breadth. The shore is there flat and sandy, and considerable quantities of fleech are carried from it to be used as manure.

*Singular Rock.*—About a mile eastward from the town is a craig or rock, curiously hollowed, known by the name of the *Maiden-bower crag*. It is said to have been famous in the times of druidism; and may have received its name, from being the scene of some rites practised as a test of virginity.

*Fish.*—The river Nith produces salmon, trouts, flounders, pikes, eels, and a species somewhat larger than herrings, called hirlings. The flounders are, however, taken rather in the parish of Caerlaverock, at the mouth of the river. From spring to the middle of summer, salmon are sold in the town, at from 6 d. to 2½ d. a-pound; the flounders are sold at from 4 d. to 1 d. a-pound. Cod from the Solway frith have, for these three winters, been sold in Dumfries, so low as at 1 d. or even a halfpenny a-pound. The improvement of the adjacent lands, by the quantity of lime employed, is said to have rendered the fish in the rivers less abundant. The price of salmon is now almost double what it was 12 years ago.

*Quadrupeds.*—The breed of horses has been greatly improved here within these 20 years; and the black cattle are of the well known Galloway kind. There are few sheep,  
but

\* Smeaton's report, among Commissary Goldie's papers.

but many milk cows. A considerable number of hogs are fed through the parish. These hogs are killed on the spot, and sent to the borders of England to be cured. In this article some persons in the neighbourhood deal to the extent of several hundred pounds *per annum*.

*Agriculture.*—The improvements in agriculture have, within these 30 years, been very great. Oats were sown in 1790 upon 720 acres of land in the parish, barley upon 240, wheat upon 180; and, at least, 200 acres were planted with potatoes; 20 or 30 acres were sown with peas, and nearly as many with turnips. Considerable quantities of flax are raised in the parish. Within 8 miles of the town, there are no fewer than 5 or 6 lint mills, which are all well employed. To the cultivation of this article, the attention of the trustees, &c. has greatly contributed. About a third of the arable land may be reserved for pasture. Grass seeds are carefully sown. Wheat is sown here between the middle of September and the middle of November; oats, from the middle of March to the middle of April; barley in April, and in the beginning of May, if the season has been favourable. Wheat and barley are reaped here in August, and oats in September.

*Wood.*—Several plantations are scattered through the parish; oak, elm, beech, ash, and fir, are the most common trees. Around the town there are numerous inclosures, surrounded with trees, which have a delightful effect.

*Rents and Valuation.*—The valuation of the lands within the royalty, in the cefs books, is L. 2243 : 9 : 8 Scotch; that of the houses, L. 12,293; the country part of the parish is valued at 4017 merks, 6 s. 8 d. Scotch. The salmon fishing may be valued at L. 100 Sterling a-year. The rents have  
risen

rifen greatly within these 40 or 50 years. The land through the country part of this parish yields from 10 s. to 30 s. an acre of yearly rent. The burgh roods, confifting of above 500 acres, are let at from L. 2 to L. 3 an acre. Besides these, the land rent of the country part of the parish is full L. 3000 Sterling. The whole rental of the town is about L. 6200. A house of 3 rooms and a kitchen, the apartments 12 feet by 14, yields L. 10 or L. 12 a-year. The burgh roods are parcelled out among many small heritors and feuers. The country part of the parish belongs to 12 or 14 different proprietors, of whom only 3 are resident.

*Churches, &c.*—The town of Dumfries, with the tract of country parochially connected with it, forms only one parish. The whole charge was, for some time after the Reformation, under the care of one minister. After several successions, Dumfries became, in 1658, for the first time, a collegiate charge. Till 1727, both ministers continued to officiate in St Michael's church.<sup>(1)</sup> This had been originally a Popish chapel, in which religious worship began to be celebrated, soon after the excommunication and demolition of the friary; and was kept up, with various reparations and additions, till 1745, when it was taken down and rebuilt. In 1727, that which is called the New Church was first opened.

The minister of St Michael's, or the Old Church, enjoys a living, the value of which, including the manse and glebe, may be computed at L. 200 a-year. The minister of the New Church has neither manse nor glebe; his stipend is L. 140. Both are under the patronage of the Crown. The present minister of the Old Church is Dr Thomas Mutter, who is married, and has five daughters. Dr Burnside, minister in the New Church, is also married, and has six daughters and two sons.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There are at least 150 poor persons who receive alms from the public funds. From 45 to 50 are supported in a poor's house, established in the town. Such as chuse to go about begging, are supplied with badges to distinguish them as the only mendicant poor belonging to the town; a precaution which, however, does not hinder it from being infested with numerous vagrant beggars. The whole funds for the maintenance of the poor, whether arising from collections or mortifications, amount to nearly L. 400 a-year. The infirmary has already been taken notice of.

*Population.*—From the circumstances already mentioned, respecting the town and parish, it will naturally be inferred, that the population cannot be inconsiderable. In a sort of conjunct act of the town and the presbytery, dated in 1727, the examinable persons in the town alone, of the age of 10 years and upwards, are stated at 2030. Since that period, this number has been greatly augmented. In 1755, the number of souls, as returned to Dr Webster, was 4517. The present population of the town, as appears from an enumeration lately taken, may be fairly estimated at 5600 souls. The inhabitants of the country part of the parish are 1400; total 7000 souls; so that the increase within these 35 years amounts to 2483 souls. The number of separate families in the town, is from 1400 to 1500. The families in the country are somewhat above 300. The numbers of the different incorporated trades in the town are respectively as follows:

**Hammermen,**

	Free of the Corporation.	Journeyman.	Apprentices.	Total.
Hammermen,	40	16	14	70
Squaremen,	86	84	50	220
Tailors,	45	20	20	85
Weavers,	42	15	2	59
Shoemakers,	110	84	42	236
Skinner and glovers,	14	5	4	23
Flethers,	23 (all the journeymen free)			10 33

To these may be added of tanners, nailers, plaisterers, brass-founders, silversmiths, watchmakers, dyers, and others not incorporated, - - - 100  
 The bakers, masters and apprentices, are, - - 26  
 Gardeners, ditto, - - - 50  
 Stockingmakers, ditto, - - - 30  
 Hatmakers, ditto, - - - 15  
 Seamen and fishermen, - - - 10 or 12  
 Students, - - - 8  
 Writers, besides clerks and apprentices, - - 30  
 Physician, - - - 1  
 Surgeons, - - - 3  
 Apothecaries, - - - 4  
 Persons of the Episcopal communion within the parish, of all ages, - - - 150  
 Persons above 15 years of age, born in England and Ireland, - - - 40  
 Antiburgher Seceders, - - - 270  
 Of the Relief communion, besides occasional hearers, 200  
 Roman Catholics, - - - 38  
 Besides the two clergymen of the Established Church, there are an Episcopal, an Antiburgher, a Relief, and a Methodist minister. A Roman Catholic priest occasionally resides and officiates here.

The

The annual average of births, from the neglect of registration, cannot be stated with \* perfect precision; but will be about, - - - - - 200  
 The deaths, - - - - - 150  
 The marriages, - - - - - 50  
 The females residing in town, by an account taken in 1780, were, to the males, in the proportion of nearly 3 to 2. The latter leave the place in considerable numbers, in pursuit of more lucrative employments, than any that are to be found in the town or neighbourhood. Within these 10 years, the population has very rapidly increased. In a district belonging to the new church, the inhabitants were in 1780, only 550; but in 1790, they were found to have increased to 750. This is indeed the quarter to which the lower classes chiefly crowd. The natural progress of industry and population, the advancement of agriculture, and the improvement of intercourse through all the adjacent country, the termination of the war in 1783, and the recovery of the town and neighbourhood from the shock suffered by the failure of the Ayr Bank, are the most general causes, to which the increase of numbers, during the late years, may, with the greatest probability, be ascribed.

*Climate.*—If the extent, population, and manufactures of Dumfries be not very considerable, it is exempted in a great measure, from those evils of which, in large cities, a high degree of luxury, sedentary labour, and confinement in unwholesome air, are productive. Though not regular-

VOL. V. S ly

\* From 1st January 1791, till 1st January 1792, there died in the parish exactly - - - - - 156  
 Marriages, regular and irregular, - - - - - 52  
 Baptised by one of the established clergymen, - - - - - 124  
 Of those, 72 were males.—The other baptisms in the parish would make the number altogether about - - - - - 200



ly built, the town is open, and on the whole, well ventilated; and there is a sufficient descent to the river from almost every quarter. The ground on which it stands is a gravel or sand, and the Nith, with a good current, and of a considerable wideness, runs pretty close to it. It may be expected therefore, that the town and parish should be, as they certainly are, abundantly healthy. From their favourable southern exposure, and from being defended by high lands, or mountains to the north, the town and neighbouring country partake of that mild temperature of the air, and often enjoy those mild winters, which in general are observable from the Solway Frith, all along the coast of Galloway. The state of the weather in winter is, for the most part, very different in this tract, from what it is in places which lie 40 or 50 miles to the N. and E. of us.

*Diseases.*—Consumptions and rheumatisms are frequent here, as they are indeed in all variable climates, especially when due pains are not taken to defend the body, by suitable clothing, against the bad effects of sudden changes of the weather.

The prevalence of the palsy, and of insanity, has, of late, been particularly taken notice of amongst us. Whether or not they are really more frequent than they were 20 or 30 years ago, it would not be easy to determine. The establishment of the Infirmary of this place, where patients have been received for these 15 years past, has brought within our knowledge and observation, a considerable number of persons unhappily labouring under both these disorders. A good part of them might not have been heard of here, if an Infirmary had not been established. The debilitating effects of some cold and wet seasons, may, perhaps, have contributed to the frequency of the palsy. Some old people tell us, (and there may be some truth in the observation,) that we  
have

have not now those warm summers, which they remember fifty years ago.

With respect to insanity, that most deplorable evil, there were received at the Infirmary here, in the course of the 11th year from its institution, ending April 1788, 13 lunatics. In the 12th and 13th years, there were received 14 each year; and in the 14th year, ending April 1791, 20. These proportions are far greater than they were previous to 1788; but this must in a considerable degree be ascribed, to the increased resort of patients to the Infirmary, in consequence of what had been experienced, of the beneficial effects, of regular treatment and safe custody. The excessive and increasing use of spiritous liquors, amongst the lower ranks of people, is justly to be considered as a great cause of this, as well as of other diseases, to which they are liable.

The practice of inoculation for the small pox became frequent here, as soon, or sooner than in many other parts of Scotland. It began as early as the year 1733, about seven years after its introduction into Britain; and has, in general, been attended with its ordinary good effects. Agues were very prevalent here 40 years ago, but now occur but rarely amongst us. Since the year 1623, it is not remembered that Dumfries has suffered, in any extraordinary degree, from any epidemical distemper. The small-pox was indeed very fatal in 1734; and the death of at least 100 persons by that disease, in a few months, might contribute towards the encouragement of inoculation, then beginning to be introduced.

Many persons in Dumfries and the neighbourhood have attained to the age of 70 and 80 years; and two or three are now living who have passed their 90th.

*Language.*—A considerably pure dialect of the English language is spoken here. Of the names of places, some are evidently of Saxon origin; others may probably be traced  
in

in the Celtic. The name of the town is, by some, supposed a compound of Gothic or Celtic, with a Roman word, *Drumfriars*; by others, it is considered as more entirely Celtic, *Drumfresh*, a hill or rising ground, clad with furze or scroggy bushes. It is a curious circumstance, that the Saxon names of places in this neighbourhood, seem to be confined, in a great measure, to the east side of Lochermoss. This might lead us to think, that the ancient Northumbrian monarchy must have been bounded upon this side by that extensive morass; did not Bede relate so distinctly, that it comprehended Galloway, and even some part of Ayrshire; and were not various other Saxon, or at least Gothic names to be met with, in advancing westward along the coast of Galloway.

*Eminent Men.*—Amongst the eminent men, that have belonged to Dumfries, may be mentioned Mr Alexander Cairncross. He was minister here in the last century, in the short reign of Episcopacy, and was afterwards translated to the see of Brechin, of Glasgow, and of Raphoe in Ireland, where he died, and where his memory is still respected. A Mr George Campbell, too, in the last century, after being minister here, became Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh. The late Dr Ebenezer Gilchrist, who died in 1774, was a man of considerable eminence in his profession, and highly distinguished for general literature. He published *An essay on the use of sea voyages in consumptive cases*, which was favourably received. The late Commissary John Goldie, who died in 1776, is allowed to have been one of the most respectable inferior judges in Scotland. The late Andrew Crosbie, Esq; of Holm, advocate, and Dr William Wight, late professor of divinity in Glasgow, both natives of this place, well deserve to be enumerated among those whose talents have done honour to their profession.

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities.*—Of our antiquities, the ancient castle of the Comyns, and that of the Maxwells, more remarkable in the course of our history, have already been mentioned. Notice has also been taken of the convent of Franciscans which stood anciently here. The street in which it stood, is still called *Friar's Vennel*. A small part of what is thought to have been the kitchen or dormitory is still to be seen. The bridge over the Nith, founded at the same time, has never yet been taken down; and amidst all the repairs which it has since received, some considerable part of the original work must still remain. In the square, in which the monument to the late Duke of Queensberry has since been erected, there stood formerly a strong building, called the New Wark, consisting of several stories, with vaults underground. The date of its erection is said to have been in 1583 or 1585. There is a tradition, which its central situation renders not improbable, that the inhabitants of the town used formerly to convey their most valuable effects hither, as to a place of security, when threatened by the borderers, or alarmed by the feuds between the Johnstones and Maxwells. About the time of the Revolution, the vaults are said to have been used as a magazine for the military stores belonging to the town. No vestige of this building now remains; but it is remembered by all the old people in town; and the vaults were found, within these 12 or 15 years, in digging for the foundation of the Duke's monument.

At the entrance into the town from the N. E. are still to be seen the remains of the foundation of an old chapel, named the Chrystal, or more properly St Christopher's chapel. It was built by Bruce, as a place in which mass might be said for the soul of his father-in-law, Sir Christopher Seton, who was hanged on this spot by order of the English monarch,

narch, King Edward I. \* The walls of this chapel were demolished in 1715, and the materials employed in the temporary works then raised for defence against the rebels.

A field near the Castle-dykes, formerly mentioned, still retains the name of Kingholm, which may either have been imposed upon it by Bruce, after the slaughter of Comyn, or may have been gradually formed by corruption from Comyn's holm, a name which it once bore. At the opposite end of the town, and upon the bank of the river, is another field still called Nunholm, as lying adjacent to the nunnery which was once established at Lincluden.

Towards the lower end of this parish, and corresponding, as is thought, to another similar one, near the castle of Caerlaverock, and within that parish, is an eminence, called Trohaughton, which has been noticed by Pennant, as a Roman station. Hard by this town, is a third eminence, seemingly of the same nature, called the Kirkland Moat. These, in the time of the border feuds, may have been stations for the communication of intelligence.

An antique, supposed to be a Roman sandal, which was found towards the east end of this parish, is now in the possession of Mr Riddel of Glenriddel. In the same gentleman's collection is also a small gold coin, scarcely so broad as a sixpence, but nearly as thick as a half-crown, and bearing the inscription AUGUSTUS, round the impression of a Roman head. It was found, 3 or 4 years ago in the Nith, nearly opposite to the town mills. In digging for the foundation of a house, several years since, near the Duke's monument, there was an earthen pot found, which contained a leathern bag much decayed, and within it several old silver coins, with four or five broaches or *fibulae*, linked together. Two of these have appeared, upon comparison with the plates in  
Anderfon's

\* Mackenzie's Lives of Scots writers, vol. iii. p. 208.

Anderfon's *Numismata Scotiæ* to be of John Baliol, and Robert III.

It is worthy of being mentioned, that, behind the New Church, and what is still stiled the Castle Garden, there is yet to be seen the deep tract of a road, leading for a space of 200 or 300 yards, down to the Nith. A causeway had been formed across the river here, by which the family at the castle could come and go, between it and their seat at Terreggles, without passing through any part of the town or its suburbs.

As to *remarkable natural phenomena* in this neighbourhood, few permanent curiosities of this sort are to be seen here, unless the Maiden bower craig, and some rocks adjacent to it, be considered as such. These rocks present bold precipices to the N. E. and decline gradually to the S. W. in a manner which seems to suggest, that they must have been cast into their present order and form by some convulsion of nature.—A storm of wind in 1758, unroofed several houses here, and a part of St Michael's church.—The meteor upon the 18th of August 1783, was distinctly seen here.—That in November 1758, described by Sir John Pringle, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of London, was also observed in Dumfries.—A shock of an earthquake was felt here on the 11th of August 1786.

*Character and Manners.*—The town of Dumfries serving in some measure as a capital, not merely to this shire, but also to Galloway, and having such easy and regular intercourse with London, with Edinburgh, and even with the capital of Ireland, has thus become remarkable as a provincial town for elegance, information, and varied amusement. The gentry from the neighbouring country, are thence often inclined, either to prefer it as a place of residence, or to pay it occasional visits. Its establishments for education hold  
out

out considerable inducements to persons of moderate fortune, who may wish their children to enjoy the advantages of a well-conducted public education, without being removed from under their own immediate inspection. The character of the inhabitants, is allowed to be, in general, very respectable. They are charitable and benevolent, hospitable to strangers, and mix frequently amongst themselves in domestic intercourse. In their disposition and manners they are social and polite; and the town, together with the neighbourhood a few miles around it, furnishes a society, amongst whom a person of a moderate fortune may spend his days, with as much satisfaction and enjoyment, as, perhaps, in any part of these kingdoms.

NUM.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF MENMUIR.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN WAUGH.

---

*Origin of the Name.*

**I**F *Men* or *Mun* in the Celtic, as has been said, means a moss or bog, then *Menmore* will signify the great moss, which etymology receives considerable credit from the face of the parish to the south, and the remains of marshy grounds in that quarter.

The name was anciently *Menmure* and *Menmore*, the last syllable of which is well known to be a common termination to names of places in this kingdom, such as *Strathmore*, the great valley, *Kenmore*, the great head, and *Benmore*, the great hill. It should seem, not only from legendary report, but from a fine spring which still goes by his name, that in the times of Popery, the church here had been dedicated to St Aidan, which appellation was also given sometimes to the parish itself. This holy man was British; his name appears in some of our kalendars; he flourished in the 7th century, and is said to have been Bishop of Lindisfarne before that see was transferred to Durham. Under the auspices of Oswald, king of Northumberland, he converted his subjects to the Christian faith. That he was in deserved esteem in that country, along with Bede and St Cuthbert, there is no doubt.



*Situation, Extent, Surface and Soil.*—This parish is situated in the shire of Forfar, in the presbytery of Brechin, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is rather more than 5 English miles in length, and about 2, at a medium, in breadth. The general appearance of the country is flat, especially to the south and east, except the northern division of the parish, which is hilly and covered with heath. The rest of the grounds, particularly on the slopes, are very fertile: The soil seems to be a sandy clay, not very deep, and towards the water side sharper, with less loam and more gravel intermixed.

*Climate and Distempers.*—The air may be called healthy, though, from the vicinity of the hills, it is cold, and very often in the summer evenings after sun-set, there is a chilly breeze from that quarter. In the low lands it is rather marshy, and the air is moister, which, with the nature of the food, may encourage the scurvy and King's evil. This latter complaint, with the slow inflammatory fever, are the prevailing distempers. The disease called *Sibbins*, and described some years ago by Dr Gilchrist, has made its appearance once or twice in this parish; and this distemper, called, in the account of a neighbouring parish, the *louping gout*, was first noticed here.

*Mineral Spring.*—On a farm called Bathall there was a mineral well, which was in considerable repute some years ago; but is now very little resorted to. It is of the chalybeate kind, and good for stomachic complaints. But the poor people in those diseases, for which Spa waters are recommended, commonly prefer that of Panana or Arbroath.

*Population.*—The number of people in this parish, according to Dr Webster's statement, amounts to 743. By a very correct list taken last spring, (1791,) there were 900 souls,

souls, viz. 432 males and 468 females, which makes an increase of 157; although, from examining the register of baptisms for a considerable time back, it appears, that the population is rather on the decline. The births are, at an annual average, nearly 27, deaths 22, marriages 8. Of the two latter no exact records are kept, and consequently the calculations may not be so perfectly correct. The number of farmers is 36; of manufacturers, the weavers, who are the only people of that description that are here, 12. The different sectaries or dissenters, are about 60, viz. 2 Roman Catholics, who do not properly belong to the parish, but come from the north; 10 Seceders, who attend a meeting in Brechin; and 48 Episcopalians.

*Farming and Produce, &c.*—There are 55 ploughs in the parish and 100 carts. The old Scots plough is commonly used. On 2 farms they still use oxen. In some places the small plough is introduced. The parish supplies itself with provisions, excepting butcher meat and small groceries, which people in a country situation need from market towns; but in return for these they send in fat cattle, and export pretty large quantities of grain, especially oats and rough or Chester bear. On some of the larger farms, where they have a greater proportion of pasture, a good deal of cheese and butter is made and sold at Brechin or Kirrymuir. The soil, in several places, seems peculiarly favourable for raising flax. Four or five persons have lately obtained premiums for this article; and this summer, with the assistance of the Board of Trustees, a mill for dressing lint has been erected on the water Cruick, which, it is to be hoped, will meet with encouragement. Peas and oats are sown here as soon after Candlemas as the weather will permit, though, in some late seasons, they are hardly finished by the middle or even the end of April. Flax is sown about the beginning of that month, and through the whole of it. When it is a dry  
spring,

spring, the farmers wish to get their bear earlier sown, than in more southern or in less exposed situations, as the cold nights and frosty air of October have frequently injured this grain of late years. Barley is little cultivated, though rather coming in; both it and the Chester bear will sometimes answer very well, when the summer is warm, though not sown till near Whitsunday. Turnips begin to be sown after that is over, which thrive very well here, seldom mis-give, on account of the fly and slug, as they do in England, and are universally sown with the hand or a machine in drills, and afterwards cleaned repeatedly with the common plough. A good many potatoes, red cabbage, boricole, and some yams for horses, are cultivated with success in the same way: These are reckoned a profitable crop, besides preparing the ground for oats. By this intermediate produce, and the succeeding one, with the help of manure, being very plentiful, the farmers reckon themselves greater gainers than those who raise wheat at the expence of exhausting their land, and losing a crop by fallow.

*Disadvantages.*—The improvements in agriculture, and the parish in general, lie under certain disadvantages, which deserve to be mentioned. There is neither lime nor marl in the parish, and it is a great labour, and occupies a good deal of the summer's work to bring them from pits or hills at 4, 6, and even at 12 miles distance. Another hindrance to improvement, and a great disadvantage to the parish, is the kind of fuel and the manner of obtaining it. There are few peats; turf is the principal firing. These are none of the best, tedious in casting, winning and leading, in wet seasons very difficult to dry; and by the cultivation of waste lands, the whins, divot and broom, are almost worn out. Thus, the poor householder, after all his fatigue, has sometimes nothing but his labour for his pains, and is obliged to  
buy

buy coals from the ports of Arbroath and Montrose, the first 15, the other 10 miles from Menmuir. These coals, to such as have them to purchase, will come to 12s. and 13s. the cart-load. If they go to Arbroath, the distance is very great; if to Montrose, they are 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. the boll dearer, from the heavy duty that is exacted whenever sea coal passes a little promontory called Redhead. So heavy is this burden, that it is found to be more frugal to burn small coal from Newcastle, than what comes from the Frith of Forth. This grievance, which hurts the poor, and checks very much all spirit of enterprise and manufacture, might be removed by a new tax on some less needful commodity, or by an equalization of the duty; perhaps an additional halfpenny levied in general on Fife and Lothian coal might answer the end.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 6 heritors, only two of whom reside in the parish. The valued rent is L. 283:3:11 Sterling. The real rent is L. 1599 a-year. The average rent of farms may be L. 50. The general rent of the best arable land is about 12 s. the acre. The farmers are convinced of the advantages of inclosures, although they are as yet but rare. In several new tacks the tenants have bound themselves to inclose with dry stone-dikes, for which they are to receive 10s. a rood at the expiration of their lease. The victual raised annually amounts to 5704 bolls. There are 218 horses; 1030 black cattle, and 1447 sheep.

*Wages.*—A stout day-labourer may be hired for 8 d. with victuals. In winter wages are less. In harvest a man's wages are 1 s. a-day, and a woman's 10 d. Day-labourers, when industrious, can bring up their families without difficulty. The wages of domestic servants, at a medium, are L. 6 for a man, and L. 3 for a woman. The wages

ges of artificans vary much: Some carpenters will be got for 8 d. a day, others can hardly be hired for 1s. 6 d. The case is similar with regard to tailors. Some of them only demand 4 d. and others 8 d. a-day, just as they happen to be dextrous at their trade, or much employed.

*Poor.*—There are 10 at present on the funds. The annual amount of contributions for their support is, at an average, L. 14; besides which, L. 6, 10 s. arises from funds lying in the heritors hands, at the interest of 5 and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

*Church.*—The church was built in 1767. The stipend varies with the price of victual. It consists of 6 chalders, viz. 32 bolls of bear and 64 of oats, with L. 25 Sterling, in which it is chiefly paid. Including the glebe, which is scarcely 6 acres, but very good ground, the ecclesiastical benefice is, *communibus annis*, rather above L. 90 a-year. The patron is John Erskine, Esq; of Dun.

*School.*—There is but one school in this parish, and that but ill attended. There are hardly 10 scholars in summer, and in winter the greatest number never exceed 30. The encouragement given to the master is extremely poor. A paltry house, about 100 merks of salary, and the emoluments not above L. 2.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of a hill called *Catertun*, there are the remains of a very remarkable fortrefs. It consists of an immense quantity of loose stones, ranged round the summit of the mountain in an elliptic form. Whether these are the ruins of a stupendous wall, or whether they were at first only heaped together, does not certainly appear; though, from their present state, one should imagine the latter was the case. It is supposed by antiquarians,

quarians, that this was a Danish or a Pictish camp; and what puts this hypothesis beyond doubt, is, *first*, plain indications of a fosse or ravin all around; and, *2dly*, on the next hill, a fortification of the same figure, but of less note, being composed of earth; whereas, in Caterthun, the great curiosity is the vast number of stones. Whether we consider the size of some of these, the whole mass *in cumulo*, the height to which they have been conveyed, the distance from which 'tis likely they were brought, there being no quarry or rock in the adjacent moors; or, in fine, whether the curious rest on one, or on all these circumstances, this structure, rude as it is, may well excite wonder, and affords much subject for research. Some travellers, who have narrowly examined these stones, tell us, that on some of them they discovered coarse outlines of birds, beasts, &c. Within the ring or oval circumference, the earth is covered with soft grass and bent; whereas, without the ring, the heath and moss is very luxuriant over the hill. The space inclosed by the stones may be near two acres. Among these stones some herbs appear, but the *Digitalis* or foxglove is most conspicuous. There are up and down slight eminences, or small tufty hillocks, underneath some of which, 'tis not improbable, lie concealed arms, bones, urns, or some *notitiæ* of the original formation of these remarkable ramparts. But there is another object visible at first glance, which must be mentioned. It cannot be better described than by borrowing some of the words of a writer, who observes, when speaking of the appearances on the top of Craigphadrick,

‘ Within this inner space, there are other marks of artificial  
‘ operation, viz. a portion of ground, separated from the rest,  
‘ near the west side. This is in the shape of a *parallelogram*,  
‘ the dike and ditch of the inclosure easily to be discerned.  
‘ But what has been the intention of this piece set apart, 'tis  
‘ difficult to determine. It might perhaps have marked  
‘ the residence of those of high rank, or been a place appro-  
‘ priated

'priated to religious use.' As *Caterthun*, at a little distance, appears to be of a conic shape, and has a range of stones about its summit like a crater, some travellers imagine it to have been formerly a volcano. This may be the case with some other hills in the north of Scotland; but the structure in question is plainly a work of art, and not of nature. There is nothing like lava which might point out the operation of internal fire; nothing like the vitrification of these Highland castles formed by artificial fusion, neither is there any mark of masonry; so that it must rank with *Duneval* and *Dunjardel* in Inverness and Nairnshire, and other fortifications of dry stone. With regard to the main object, the time when, and the people by whom this strong hold was first erected, history is silent, and consequently recourse must be had to the most probable conjecture. Little need be said on this head after the suppositions of Messrs Pinkerton and Pennant, whose writings with those of others may easily be consulted. The last of these authors has given, in one of his first tours in Scotland, a view of *Caterthun*, with its dimensions. Some people in this country would trace the origin of *Caterthun* no higher than what in the Celtic its name implies, 'the Thieves-hill;' but this seems to fix it to an æra much too recent. That the northern freebooters, or *Catterin*, as they are vulgarly called, availed themselves in their expeditions southward, of this and other places of strength, there is no doubt. On this account also it might receive its present name; but it has been clearly a strong camp before the period of their incursions, probably in the Danish or Caledonian wars. Some suppose Tacitus speaks of this place in his history, and 'tis also said, that in later days the celebrated Marquis of Montrose and his army signed the Solemn League and Covenant  
on

on the top of this mountain \*. There is a cluster of burrows, about a mile to the north of the church, which were believed, by the common people, to be graves of Picts or Danes killed in battle; but as, upon one of them being opened, bones were found very entire, one should imagine they belonged to a later transaction. A little rivulet hard by has two passes, called the Scotch and Englishman's ford, which seems to confirm this opinion, and to fix their date about the reigns of Charles I. or II. when there were frequent skirmishes in this country between the Presbyterian and Royal forces. There is one burrow detached from the rest, which is called *Beattie's Cairn*, and the place 'the *Manfsworn Rigg*,' i. e. the perjured land. There is a tradition which agrees with this appellation, and affords a striking picture of the spirit of ancient times. Two lairds quarrelled about their marches, and witnesses were brought to swear to the old boundaries. One of these chieftains, provoked to hear his opponent's servant declare on oath, that he then stood on his master's ground, pulled a pistol from his belt, and shot him dead on the spot. It was found, that to save his conscience, he had earth in his shoes brought from his laird's land. The person who punished such prevarication, in so summary a manner, was proprietor of Balhall. Before the Carnegies bought the principal estate here, these lands were possessed by a family named *Collace* or *Coleffy*. Their funeral vault is in the church yard. One of them distinguished himself as fol-

U

lows

\* Some travellers pretend to have found on its summit several figured stones with hieroglyphic characters, and likewise a piece of a broken statue. One, in particular, † makes mention of certain gold coins with inscriptions, in the possession of some gentleman in Angus, which were got on Caterthun. If the gentleman, in whose custody these curious pieces are, would lay them before the Antiquarian Society, it might tend to remove the obscurity in which the history of this mountain is involved.

† Vide *Ruddiman's Magazine*, August 31. 1775.



lows in the battle of Brechin. When the Earl of Crawford fought in this engagement, to revenge Lord Douglas's murder by James II. there was in his army one Collace of Balnamoon. This man being affronted at not receiving a promise of the lands of Fern from Crawford, on their eventual victory, left him, while the combat was yet doubtful, and brought over to Huntly and the loyalists the best part of his commander's forces, consisting of battle-ax, long spear, and broad sword men. This turned the fortune of the day, and forms a very important fact in the history of that time, as several writers acknowledge it was a most critical event to James, and established the Crown, which, till that decisive engagement, had only tottered on his head.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The inhabitants of this parish are disposed to industry and economy. The women, in particular, spin a great deal of lint into coarse yarn for the duck or sail-cloth factory. They spin with both hands, a practice little known in the south of Scotland, which enables them to earn 3 s. a-week. This makes it sometimes difficult to get domestic servants, seeing they can make their bread easily at home. There are three persons in this place who take in the flax undressed; one of these keeps constantly two hecklers employed, to prepare the lint for spinning; which, on being returned in yarn, is carried to Montrose, as the few manufacturers who reside here are principally employed in making coarse plaidings and linen of a finer quality for home consumption. The roads are improving. They are still made and repaired by the statute labour, which is not commuted. There are no tolls, and the general idea is that they would be oppressive. There are 2 bridges over the water called Cruick, on the great road to Brechin. One of these was built 3 years ago,  
for

for which purpose L. 30 was obtained from the county, and L. 40 raised by subscription. There are 5 corn mills on Cruick water, and a fulling mill on a small rivulet to the north. At one of these mills about 400 bolls of pot-barley are annually made for the London market. There is only 1 licensed ale-house in the parish, and it is rather a convenience than a nuisance. Cottagers are here almost universally employed in labour. Several farmers think that they are both cheaper and more steady labourers than hired servants. Many of the cottagers live very comfortably.

NUM.

## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF PORTMOAK.

(COUNTY OF KINROSS.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW GRANT.*

---

*Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

THE name of this parish is derived from St Moak, in honour of whom a priory was erected on the banks of Lochleven. *Port* was prefixed to it, from its being the nearest land to the isle of Servanus, and consequently the usual landing place from the priory of Lochleven, which was situated in that island. It is in the presbytery of Kirkaldy, and Synod of Fife. It is of a very irregular figure; the length, at one place, is 7 miles, and the breadth 5, and contains in all about 6404 acres Scotch measure. Of these 4054 are arable, 300 mofs, 300 meadow, 1400 hill, and 350 muir. The surface presents a great variety of objects to the eye, a mixture of fertile fields, barren mofs, rich meadows, craggy mountains, and thriving plantations, lying around a beautiful and extensive lake. In such an irregular surface, the soil must be various. There is a tract of arable ground, which is very fertile, having the loch and the river of Leven to the south, and being sheltered from the north by the Lomonds; its length is about five miles, and

and its average breadth one. It is a sandy warm soil, producing, even in its present state, rich and early crops. There is no ground in this county, capable of making more quick and ample returns for the labour bestowed upon it; and yet, with all these advantages, it is far from being well cultivated. That part of the arable ground, which lies south of the Leven, is somewhat later, and in its present state less fertile, but it is also very valuable and capable of much improvement. The greater part of the moor is covered with heath, and could not be cultivated without much labour and expence. It appears to have been once covered with wood, as the roots of large oak trees are frequently found in it, still fixed where they first grew. *Valeriana Sylvestris*, an herb well known to the apothecary, is found here in great abundance. The meadow ground produces plenty of coarse hay, fit only for black cattle. The hill grounds of the south-west Lomond, and part of Ben-artic, having no heath, are green to the top, and afford excellent pasture for sheep. At the bottom of the south Lomond or Bishop's hill, there is a number of copious springs of excellent water. One of these is so remarkable, that the hospital of Lochleven, which stood near it, was called *Fons Scotia*, now Scotland Well. The height of this branch of the Lomonds has never been measured.

*Lake, Islands, River, &c.*—Lochleven, which is half surrounded by this parish, is a spacious and beautiful lake. It is about 15 miles in circumference, and interspersed with islands of various appearance and extent. One of these contains about 48 English acres of good pasture. In this, which is called St Serf's isle, was situated the ancient priory of Lochleven. About 2 miles N. W. of this, there is a small island, almost covered with the ruins of a castle, once belonging to the Douglasses of Lochleven, and former-

ly used as a state prison. In this place, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots was kept a close prisoner, and suffered, for about eleven months, all the rigour and miseries of captivity\*. Those who have seen the ruins of this place, will be pleased with the justness and beauty of the following description :

No more its arches echo to the noise  
 Of joy and festive mirth. No more the glance  
 Of blazing taper thro' its windows beams,  
 And quivers on the undulating wave :  
 But naked stand the melancholy walls,  
 Lash'd by the wint'ry tempests, cold and bleak,  
 That whistle mournful thro' the empty halls,  
 And piece-meal crumble down the tow'rs to dust,  
 Equal in age, and sharers of its fate.  
 A row of moss-grown trees around it stand ;  
 Scarce here and there, upon their blasted tops,  
 A shrivell'd leaf distinguishes the year.                    BRUCE.

Lochleven is not merely an ornament to the country. It is a source of very considerable emolument to the proprietors. It abounds with fish of various kinds. The Lochleven trouts are well known in the Edinburgh market. The different kinds of them, the season when they are in greatest perfection, with their size and prices, will naturally find a place in the account of Kinross. They are all landed there and sold to the inhabitants, or sent to Edinburgh. The wild fowls, that frequent this lake, are the heron, scart, bittern, snipe, teal, water rail, king's fisher, coot, swan, gulls, wild geese and wild ducks. The river Leven, the most considerable in Fife, takes its rise from this lake, and runs for two miles through the parish. The  
 ground

\* She was imprisoned from 16th June 1567, to 2d May 1568. *Robertson.*

ground through which it passes is rich meadow, but so level, and the windings of the river so many, that great part of it is laid under water during the winter. It abounds with very large trouts, which are sometimes found also in the lake; but those of them that are caught in the river are larger, many weighing 5 pounds, and some of them much more. It abounds also with pike. But the most remarkable fishing in this river is that of eels. In the month of September they begin to go down from the loch in great numbers to the sea, but only during the night. When this season arrives, the fishers place their nets in the river, which they draw every two hours during the night, and frequently find them full. As the bulk of the people have an aversion to them as food, from their serpentine appearance, this fishing turns to little account in the view of profit.

*Climate, Diseases.*—Perhaps it cannot be said, that there is any thing peculiar to the climate of this parish. It is, in some degree, sheltered from the cold easterly winds, which, in the spring, are severely felt upon the south and east coasts of Fife. But it lies exposed to the north-west wind, which, blowing across the Ochil hills covered with snow, and along the surface of the lake, becomes intensely cold. On the whole, however, it may be safely asserted, that the air is salubrious, the people vigorous, and subject to few distempers. Inoculation for the small-pox being unknown here, that distemper is fatal to children. To inoculate is here regarded as criminal. It is hoped, however, that these prejudices will soon disappear, and suffer a practice to be introduced, which has been attended with the happiest effects in other places. There are at this time 50 people living in the parish, upwards of 70 years of age. Of these, 19 are 75; 9 are 80; 2, 90; and 1, 97. The father of this last one died at the advanced age of 106.

*State*

*State of Property.*—There are 2 greater and about 50 smaller proprietors. Of the greater only one resides in the parish. The rest are mostly feuars upon the estates of Kinross and Arnot. These almost all reside upon, and farm their own property. The extent of these feus is from 100 to 400 acres. The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 4515, 6s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent of land around the two villages is about L. 1, 10s. *per* acre.—About 900 acres of the parish are inclosed. The only fence known here is a coarse, but cheap one, the Galloway dike. The lands so inclosed, let from year to year, at higher rents for pasture, than, upon a lease of 19 years, for tillage. The demand for such inclosures continues to increase, which begins to diminish the number of farmers in this district.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—There are about 50 ploughs in the parish. Of these, 4 are of the English, and the rest of the old Scotch make. Some of them are drawn by 2 horses and 4 oxen, some by 2 of each, and a few by 2 horses only. The soil being light, easily wrought, and the greater part of it without stones, the small English plough would answer best. The business of farming is not fully understood in this district. Turnip and grass seeds, two of the greatest improvements in agriculture, are only beginning to find their way into the parish. This is the more surprising, as the soil is uncommonly well adapted to both. There is scarce a farm in this parish, and few in this part of the country, properly divided, and subjected to a regular rotation of crops. The old divisions of outfield and infield, and the old mode of managing them still prevail. The infield receives all the manure which is produced during the winter, and is cropped without interruption. From the outfield, after being dunged by feeding the cattle upon it, the farmer takes four successive crops of oats, and then,

then, without sowing grass seeds, trusts to the spontaneous production of nature, for pasture the ensuing season. The farmers, however, are beginning to lay aside old prejudices, and to adopt improvements, which, in other places, have long been the source of opulence and plenty. The usual crops are wheat, barley, oats, peas and flax. Till very lately, little or no wheat was raised in the parish; but, at present, it does more than supply itself with that article. Peas are reckoned an uncertain and unprofitable crop. This is not owing either to the soil or climate, but to mismanagement. Flax is raised for private use only. But oats, oat-meal and barley are exported in considerable quantities\*.

*Cattle.*—There are about 240 horses in the parish. Some of them are very good draught horses, but many of them

VOL. V.

X

are

\* Wheat is sown from the beginning of October to the middle of November; oats, peas and flax, from the beginning of March to the middle of April; and barley from that to the 20th of May. Harvest begins about the middle of August, and is generally finished by the end of September. Before the subject of agriculture is dismissed, it is proper to take notice of a discouragement to it, arising from the lands of one proprietor being *thirled* to the mill of another. At the time this custom took place, the consequences of it could not be foreseen, and therefore the rigorous interpretation of it seems to be improper. When the farmer raised little grain, except what he made into meal, to serve his own family, or to dispose of among his neighbours, it was no great hardship to be obliged to manufacture it at one mill in preference to another. This was the state of the country when thirlage bonds were given. But in the present state of things, when the farmer sells great quantities of grain to the corn-merchant, for exportation, or to the brewer, to be made into malt, to make him pay multure for this part of the produce of his land, to a mill from which he receives no advantage, is surely a grievance which ought to be redressed; and as no multure for the grain sold to the brewer or corn-merchant was demanded for many years after thirlage bonds were in use, it is evident, (notwithstanding the present interpretation of them), that it was not in the view of the contracting parties, when first granted.



are of a small size, and ill kept. At an average, they may sell at from L. 9 to L. 10 each. A few may be worth L. 20 a-piece. Fife and Kinrossshire have always been more remarkable for their breed of black cattle than horses. This parish usually maintains 1290 black cattle. These are very different in size and value, according to the nature of the farms on which they are reared. Stots of 3 or 4 years old, sell, at an average, for L. 8, and cows for L. 6. But on several farms they are much more valuable; some of them, when fit for the butcher, weighing 50 or 60 stone.—The stock of sheep upon the Lomond hills is, of late, much diminished. The number at present in the parish is 1384. They are mostly of the white faced kind, which, by experience, are found to thrive best on this pasture. They are very hardy, but of a small size, being sold for about 9 s. a-piece. The wool which they produce is not fine. From 8 to 10 fleeces go to a stone, which usually sells at 15 s. By a little attention, the value both of the carcase and the fleece might be improved.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—A boll of oat-meal sells (January 1792) at 15 s. 4 d.; a boll of wheat at 19 s.; barley at 16 s.; oats at 12 s. A boll of wheat, barley and oats, Linlithgow measure, is about 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. cheaper than upon the coasts of Lothian and Fife, owing chiefly to the distance of the markets, and the badness of the roads. Beef, veal, mutton, pork and lamb, are generally bought below 4 d. per pound of 17½ ounces. A fowl sells from 10 d. to 1 s.; a duck at 6 d.; eggs at 3 d. per dozen; butter at 7 d. or 8 d. per pound; and cheese, according to its quality and age. The rise, which has taken place in the prices of these articles, is very great. About 60 years ago, a boll of barley sold here for 6 s. 8 d.; a boll of oats for

3 s. 6 d. \*; beef and mutton, for 1½ d. *per* pound.—The price of labour has undergone a proportional change. A ploughman receives L. 6, and a female servant from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3 *per annum*, besides their board. A mason receives 1 s. 8 d. a wright 1 s. 4 d. a day labourer 8 d. with his victuals, 1 s. when he furnishes his own provisions. About 60 years ago, the wages of a man servant, *per annum*, were L. 1, 15 s.; of a maid servant 15 s. and of a day labourer 3 d. *per* day, and his meat †.

*Population.*—The number of people, according to Dr Webster's return, was 996. Since that period, there was no record of the population till 1783, when the number of souls was 1040. Of these there were,

Married

\* A charter granted to one of the proprietors of this parish, about 200 years ago, contains a curious proof, how much the value of money has diminished, and the price of provisions increased since that time. His lands are held of the Crown, for payment of a feu-duty of a certain number of bolls of grain, and other articles, to be paid either in kind, or at the following conversion: 'For ilka boll, half a merk Scots, and for ilka hen, six pennies.'

† The expence of employing married or unmarried men in husbandry, is nearly equal. The following is the account of the earnings and expenditure of a labourer's family, who has a wife and two children, the one child 4 years old, and the other 2.

To victuals for the man, 2 s. <i>per</i> week,	-	-	L. 5	4	0
To clothing for ditto, including stockings and shoes,			1	15	0
To meat and clothes for the eldest child, 1 s. 3 d. <i>per</i> week,			3	5	0
To ditto, for the youngest, 1 s. <i>per</i> week,	-	-	2	12	0
To clothes for wife,	-	-	1	0	0
			<hr/>		
			L. 13	16	0

In such a family, the wife, besides attending to the family, is supposed to earn, by spinning, or other work, what is equal to her board. The man's wages, at 1 s. *per* day, (deducting 12 days for holidays, attending funerals, and inclement weather,) are L. 15. After paying the rent of his cottage, furnishing soap, candles, &c. his earnings and expenditure will be nearly balanced.

Married men,	179	Attending Church,	561
Ditto women,	179	Burghers,	373
Widowers,	18	Antiburghers,	89
Widows,	40	Cameronians,	17
Male children,	170		<hr/>
Female ditto,	246		1040
Male servants,	125	Males,	488
Female ditto,	83	Females,	552
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1040		1040

Weavers,	50	Parchment makers	2
Shoemakers,	9	Wrights,	8
Smiths,	5	Coopers,	2
Masons,	8	Hecklers,	2
Tailors,	12	Gardener,	1
Ale sellers,	5	Baker,	1
Miller,	1		

Families in the parish, 271.

The number of souls in May 1791, was 1105. Of these there were,

128 Families in villages.

133 Ditto in country.

---

261 Ditto in the parish.

About  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to a family in villages.

5 to ditto in country.

$4\frac{1}{2}$  to ditto in the whole parish.

Attending Church, - 657

Seceders, - - 448

---

1105

Of these 527 are males, and 578 females. One hundred and eighty

eighty-five married men, widowers included, have 525 children alive, which is nearly 3 to each marriage. Since 1783, there is an increase in the number of weavers, of 19; and of population upon the whole, of 65. The increase since 1755 is 109.—The register of baptisms for 10 years, from 1735 to 1745, contains the names of 133 males, and 120 females, in all 253; so that the average number of christenings was  $25\frac{3}{10}$  per year. The same register from 1781 to 1791, contains 131 males, and 114 females, in all 245; so that the average number of baptisms, for the last 10 years, is  $24\frac{1}{2}$  per year. The average number of marriages recorded for the last 5 years, is  $6\frac{2}{3}$  per year. From the above register of baptisms and marriages, no certain conclusion can be drawn with regard to the population, at least during the last period, on account of irregular marriages, and some of the children of the Secession not being registered. In the above division of the people into professions, there are 2 parchment makers. This branch of business has been established in Kinnesswood above 150 years. Great quantities of this manufacture are sent to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The continued encouragement they have received from the public, is the best evidence that the manufacturers are skilful in their business.—There are 2 villages in this parish, one of which contains 293 souls, and the other 169. The inhabitants of these are mostly tradesmen and manufacturers, many of whom are also proprietors of houses and land. In these villages there are 5 ale-houses, where great quantities of spirits are sold; but as yet their bad effects on the morals of the people have not been very extensive.

*General Character.*—The secession from the Established Church had a considerable effect, for some time, upon the temper and manners of the people in this and the neighbouring parishes. Difference of opinion, at first, not only  
kept

kept them at a distance from each other, but was frequently the occasion of injuries and abuse. The virulent controversial writings of the day contributed, not a little, to keep alive this intolerant spirit. This violence has now disappeared, and people of different persuasions live together in the utmost harmony and peace. They are uncommonly regular in the discharge of religious duties, and, with a few exceptions, are industrious, sober, and peaceable. During the residence of the present incumbent, there is no instance of any one being punished, either by fine, banishment, or death. In a collection, made some years ago for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and in one lately, for a poor widow in the parish, the charity and humanity of the parishioners appeared conspicuous.

*Minerals.*—In the Bishop's-hill, there are inexhaustible quarries of limestone. The vein, which has been worked for some time past, is 12 feet thick, lying under a roof of moss, ochre and caln, 12 feet deep. Upon trial, it has been found to be as good as any in Fife, if not the best. About 340 chalders are annually sold at L. 1 : 1 : 4 *per* chalders. This is furnished by farmers and others, who, during part of the summer, quarry and burn limestone to answer the demand of the country. These men cannot be supposed to do as much work as the same number of hands would do, if, by a proper division of labour, and under the direction of one person, they were confined, each to that part of the work to which he was bred and accustomed. Thus the price is high, and exportation checked. Whereas, if it were furnished in the way above mentioned, the emoluments of the proprietors would be increased by exportation; those farmers in the neighbourhood, who have not leisure to burn it for themselves, could buy it at a reasonable price, and their industry would be confined to their own farms,

farms, where, if properly directed, it will ever be most productive. There is abundance of freestone and muirstone also, in several places of the parish.

*Commerce, Roads, &c.*—Portmoak imports ale, spirits, coals, yarn, calf and sheep skins. It exports oats, oat-meal, barley, black cattle, butter, cheese, poultry, lime-shells, green linen, checks, vellum and parchment. The raw materials, wrought up annually by the weavers in this parish, receive an additional value, from their art, of about L. 900. The limestone fold produces upwards of L. 350.—The only bridge in the parish is that across the Leven, which was built about 100 years ago.—The roads, which are in very bad order, were originally made, and are still repaired by the statute labour, which is now commuted.

*Church and School.*—The church was built in 1659, till which period, part of the old priory served for a place of worship. It was repaired about 5 years ago, and is tolerably decent. The manse was built about 50 years ago, and is in very good order. The stipend is L. 50, and 4 chalders of grain; of which 26 bolls are meal, 22 barley, and 16 oats, with 50 merks for communion-elements. The glebe contains about 13 acres, one half of which is good soil, and the other very bad. The patron is George Graham, Esq; of Kinross.—The parochial schoolmaster's salary, (which is 100 merks), together with his school-fees and other perquisites, may amount to about L. 22; a reward by no means adequate to the abilities and application necessary to discharge, with success, the duties of so important an office. There were lately built a good school and school-house. The number of scholars who attend the whole year may be about 60.

*Poor.*—There are no begging poor in this parish. For some years past, 10 has been the average number upon the poor's roll. The monthly allowance given publicly in the church, to each of these, is from 2 s. to 4 s. Besides these, some have their house rents paid, some receive money, once a-year, to buy lint or lintseed, and others are assisted in educating their children. By these annual donations, many poor people are encouraged to support themselves, without coming upon the monthly roll. It has never been found that these annual gifts were ill bestowed. They are received with thankfulness, and prove a motive to industry, by keeping alive the hope of independence. These monthly and occasional distributions, amount annually, for 9 years past, to the sum of L. 24 : 13 : 2½. This arises from the interest of upwards of L. 300, and the weekly collections at the church doors\*.

*Eminent*

\* Perhaps there never was a fund managed with stricter economy, or one that answered better the purposes for which it was destined, than that under the care of the Kirk-sessions in Scotland. No class of men could be fitter for distributing the public charity, than the elders in country parishes. Their acquaintance with the circumstances of the people, prevents all imposition; the laudable vanity, they usually have in bettering their funds, leads to economy; and their time and labour are bestowed cheerfully, and without reward. This is the reason, why few or none of the parishes in this country have had recourse to the legal method of supporting the poor, by assessing the heritors. Of all the methods of supplying the poor hitherto devised, I believe that is the worst. Whilst it is a heavy and increasing burden upon the landed interest, it ruins the charity of the middling class of people, and encourages idleness and dissipation among the poor. As soon as the middling ranks of the people (who, to their honour, bear almost all the burden of supporting the poor,) find, that there is a legal provision for them, they withhold their contributions as unnecessary, and the poor themselves, having a legal claim to support, are tempted to lay aside their industry, and economy: Add to these the hardships they must submit to, and the restraints imposed upon them, in removing with their families from one place to another. That those who possess the  
wealth

*Eminent Men.*—Under this article may be mentioned Andrew Wintan, who was prior of Lochleven in the reign of James I. He wrote what is called *the Lochleven Chronicle*, or, ‘*A history of the world, from its creation to the captivity of James I.* in Scotch metre.’ There is a copy of it still in the Advocate’s library, which is frequently appeal-

VOL. V.

Y

ed

wealth of a society, are bound to support its poor, there is no doubt; but to proportion this burden to the ability of individuals, and without encouraging indolence, to assign the necessaries of life to those who are unable to earn them, seems to be extremely difficult. All the methods which law hath established for this purpose, are liable to great abuses. There is one, which, though it never had the countenance of law, has produced good effects. Many incorporations in towns, and some districts of the country also, have raised funds for the support of their poor, by subscription. Each subscriber, by contributing a small sum annually, while in health and strength, is entitled, when deprived of these, to a weekly or monthly allowance. These funds have been the means of preventing regular assessments upon the heritors in many parishes. To extend them to the whole country, would perhaps be the best method of providing for the poor. A law establishing one or more funds of this kind in every parish, and obliging every person, of whatever station, to become a subscriber at a certain age, would raise a sum equal to all the wants of the poor. In most of the parishes in this neighbourhood, an assessment of 1 s. upon each person above 20 years of age, together with the produce of their present funds, would raise a sum equal to their present distributions. This burden could not be much felt by any class of men. It would be lighter still, if proportioned to the circumstances of the contributors; such as 6 d. from servants and day-labourers annually, 1 s. from manufacturers, 2 s. from farmers, and more from proprietors, of a certain extent, or some such proportion. In some parishes, where there are large or populous towns, the assessment must be higher. But from the number of poor, and the sums distributed to them, mentioned in this work, an exact estimate of the sum wanted in each parish, could easily be calculated. The advantage of such a scheme to the landed interest is evident. Their subscriptions would amount to an inconsiderable sum, compared to that which they must contribute, if the poor are to be supported by assessments; a plan which is already adopted in the south of Scotland, and is likely to be extended over the whole country. With regard to the lower classes of  
the



ed to by later historians.—John Douglas, of the family of Pittendriech, was a man of learning. He was Provost of the new College of St Andrew's, and afterwards Rector of the University of that place. In the year 1574, he was appointed Archbishop of St Andrew's, and was the first Protestant who enjoyed that See.—Mr John Mair, late Rector of the Academy at Perth, received his education in this parish. His numerous productions, to facilitate the education of youth, are well known in all the schools.—Michael Bruce must not be omitted under this head. He was born in Kinneffwood, and very early discovered marks of genius. His parents, though in indigent circumstances, sent him to the University, where he made great progress in several branches of literature. After his death, which was  
about

the people, such a law would be reasonable; for if tradesmen, day-labourers, and servants, while healthy and in employment, can, by their earnings, enjoy the comforts of their station in a reasonable degree, and, at the same time, spare a little to assist themselves in sickness and old age, it seems equitable to make them contribute to such a fund. It is only obliging them to reserve a part of what they can spare, for a season in which it will be needed, while it gives society a security, that they will not become a burden upon it. Besides, the sum proposed is not more than they usually contribute at the church-doors. Such a law indeed would bear hard upon such as can, with difficulty, support themselves and their families. But the law obliging to subscribe, might not only admit of different rates of contribution, proportioned to the circumstances of the contributor, but of some exemptions altogether. The allowance to which opulent subscribers would be entitled, in case of sickness or old age, which it is not to be supposed they would accept of, would go to increase the fund, and to afford something to those whose circumstances did not permit them to subscribe at all. By this plan, the poor would be relieved from the hardships and restraints imposed upon them, in removing from one place to another, and gaining settlements. They would be at liberty to settle undisturbed, where wages were highest, and the necessaries of life most plentiful, secure, that when they needed support, they would find it in that fund, to the formation of which they had contributed.

about the 21st year of his age, a collection of the poems which he had made, during the summer vacations of the College, was published by one of his friends. Though they were composed amidst the most discouraging circumstances, and without his corrections, they discover strong marks of poetical merit. In the immediate view of death, says Logan, the editor of his works, he wrote the Elegy to Spring, which concludes this collection; the latter part of which is wrought up into the most passionate strains of the true pathetic, and is not perhaps inferior to any poetry in any language.

*Antiquities.*—The monastery of Portmoak stood on the east bank of Lochleven, a little north of the river which rises out of that lake. It was founded by Rogasch, king of the Picts, derived its name from St Moak, and was consecrated to the Holy Virgin. It originally belonged to a sort of Monks, called by the Scots and Britons *Culdees*, whose convents originally elected the bishops in the several places where bishops were established. It had considerable possessions. Kirkness was given to it in the reign of David I. by Mackbeth, son of Finlach, and was afterwards the residence of the prior. It was united to St Leonard's College, by John Winram, prior of Portmoak, and subprior of St Andrew's, the 5th of October 1570. The monastery is so entirely demolished, that only as much of one corner of it remains, as to shew the place where it stood.—The priory of Lochleven, dedicated to St Serf, or Servanus, was situated in an island in Lochleven. It was said to have been founded by Brudus, the last except one of the Pictish kings, who gave the island to the Monks or Culdees of Servanus. The ruins of the monastery are still visible. In the beginning of the 12th century, when the priory of St Andrew's was erected, this, with its possessions, was annexed to it, by  
David

E.

David I. \* Patrick Graham, Archbishop of St Andrew's, and grandson of King Robert III. was buried in this priory. He was inferior to none of his time (says Spottiswood) in learning and virtue; but falling under the displeasure of the court and clergy, he was sent prisoner to the castle of Lochleven, where he died in 1478, after enjoying the empty title of Archbishop for 13 years. He was buried within the chapel, but no vestiges of his monument are now to be seen †.—The hospital of *Scotland-well* was situated at the bottom of the Bishop's-hill. It was founded by William Malvoisine, Bishop of St Andrew's. David de Benham gave it to the Red Friars, and confirmed the gift by a charter, dated 1250. The Red Friars, who were established by St John of Matha, and Felix de Valois, were bound to set apart a third of their revenue, for redeeming Christian slaves from the infidels ‡. The parish church of Moonzie, near Cupar, and that of Carnock, near Dunfermline, belonged to this place. The ruins of the church and house are still to be seen near the village of Scotland-well §.

#### *Advantages*

\* Keith.

† Spottiswood.

‡ *Tertia vero pars reservetur ad redemptionem captivorum, qui sunt incarcerationati pro fide Christi a Paganis.*

§ Among the antiquities of this place might be mentioned a bank or mound of stones and turf, raised by the English army across the Leven, where it issues from the lake. This was in 1335, during the feeble reign of David II. when Edward III. of England had seized the greater part of the country. It was made with a view to raise the water of the lake over the island on which the castle stands, into which many of the Scots had retired. Part of the garrison under Sir Allan Wypont, in absence of John Striveling the English general, made a breach in this mound, through which the water rushed with such violence, as to carry along with it a number of the enemy, with their horses, tents, &c. into the sea. Those with were out of the reach of the torrent, fled and left the besieged to return with the spoils of their camp, and the provisions which they had collected

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this parish are considerable. Fuel is cheap and in great abundance. Peats are easily got in several places of it; and what is of more consequence, the coal pits of Lochow, Keltie and Lochgelly are in the immediate neighbourhood. Its labours, however, under great disadvantages; among which may be reckoned distant markets for the produce of the lands, and very bad roads. The value of the property might be increased, and the circumstances of the people bettered in various ways. By straightening the course of the Leven, and draining the adjacent meadows, perhaps 300 acres of arable ground would be added to the parish. This is not only practicable, but would soon repay the expence of doing it, and contribute to the health of the inhabitants. But the most valuable improvement which this district could receive, is a turnpike road from Kinghorn or Burntisland, northwards, through the parishes of Kinghorn, Auchtertool, Auchterderran, Ballingry and Portmoak, to join the road from Perth to the Queensferry, about two or three miles north of Kinrofs. By this travellers from the north of Scotland to Edinburgh would reach the Forth, by a road shorter than that to the Queensferry by several miles. This, added to the distance betwixt the south Queensferry and Edinburgh, which would also be cut off, would be a saving to the public of great importance. In  
this

lected for a long siege. (See *Hector Boece* and *Buchanan*).—This was not the only time the English visited this place in an hostile manner. Oliver Cromwell, (after defeating the royal army at Inverkeithing, under Sir John Brown of Fordell), in his way to Perth, made a halt in this parish, and lodged himself in the house of Kirkness. This estate then belonged to, and is still possessed by a branch of the Morton family. In the east corner of this parish are to be seen the ruins of the castle of Arnett, which was in the possession of a family of that name upwards of 600 years. (*Vide Sibbald*). It now belongs to the descendants of Sir John Bruce of Kinrofs.

this way, indeed, the passage across the Frith would be longer ; but this would scarcely be felt, if passengers were as readily served at Burntisland, (which, it is hoped, will soon be the case) as at the Queensferry. The advantages which the farmers, and consequently the proprietors of this district, would derive, from giving them access to the market-towns upon the coast of Fife, are obvious and great. It is to be hoped, that the public spirit of the gentlemen concerned, added to the consideration of private interest, will soon lead them to execute a plan of such general utility.

NUM.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF LAURENCEKIRK,  
OR CONVETH.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID FORBES.*

---

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE ancient name of this parish was Conveth, but it is now much better known by that of Laurencekirk. It is said to have received the latter appellation upon the dedication of the church to St Laurence, not long before the Reformation. It is situated in the county of Kincardine, in the presbytery of Fordoun, and in the Synod of Angus and Mearns. Its form is triangular. Its greatest length from east to west is rather above 4 miles; and its greatest breadth between north and south is about 3. A map of the parish has been drawn, from which it appears, that its superficial contents amounts to 4381 square acres.

*Surface, Soil, Rivers.*—The parish consists of one large ridge, extending longitudinally from east to west, and sloping gently to its northern and southern extremities. Its appearance is not diversified by hills, rocks, or any striking inequalities in the surface. The soil is fertile, mostly on a clayey bottom. The small river Leuther, which rises

ses in the Grampian hills, and falls into the North Esk, passes through it. In its course it turns many mills of different sorts, in this, and in the adjoining parishes of Fordoun and Aberlethnot. Near its junction with North Esk, it abounds in trouts. Nine brooks likewise intersect the parish of Laurencekirk; seven upon the southern and two upon the northern side of the Leuther.

*Climate, &c.*—This parish and the neighbourhood are subject to frequent vicissitudes of weather; but, on the whole, they are not unhealthy. No particular diseases prevail. Forty or 50 years ago the inhabitants were frequently attacked by agues in the spring. But since the marshes have been drained, that disease seldom makes its appearance. Several persons have reached the age of 90. One is remembered to have lived above 100 years: A man aged 95 is now living, and has still strength to walk 4 or 5 miles, and return within the same day.

*Property.*—The only proprietors of lands in this parish are, the Earl of Kintore, Lord Gardenston, George Carnegie, Esq; of Pitarrow, and Dr John Stuart of Redmyre. Lord Gardenston has a seat here, where he occasionally resides. The ancestors of the family of Kintore long inhabited the house of Haulkerton in this parish.

*Productions, Agriculture, &c.*—Seventy acres of the lands in Laurencekirk are covered with woods, consisting of all the variety of forest trees which grow commonly through Scotland. Marshes and meadows occupy 120 acres. In some farms a third part, in others a half of the farm is laid down with artificial grasses, which are partly used as pasture, and partly cut for hay. Somewhat more than a half of all the land in the parish is cultivated for the production  
of

of grain and roots. Flax is raised only in small quantities, and for family use. Oats, barley, peas, potatoes, and turnips, are the chief articles of crop. All sorts of garden stuff for the kitchen are produced in abundance. Agriculture has certainly arrived at a considerable state of improvement, yet little wheat is sown. There are some ploughs fitted up with wheels in the English fashion. But, in general, they are of the construction common throughout Scotland, with iron heads, and the boards upon both sides covered with plates of iron. The inconvenient ploughs, with clumsy timber heads and rough unhod boards, which were formerly used here, are now entirely laid aside. The number of ploughs employed in the parish are about 60. There are between 70 and 80 carts, and 2 post chaises. The number of black cattle is supposed to be about 1000; and that of the horses 200. These, and a few sheep, are the chief domestic animals.—Seed-time usually commences about the middle of March; harvest in the beginning of September. The parish annually supplies the neighbouring towns of Stonehaven, Montrose, and Brechin, with large quantities of meal, barley, &c.—The price of provisions has been increased to nearly double within these 20 years. Beef, mutton, and veal, are now sold at 4 d. a pound, and every other article of provision in the same proportion.—Labourers in husbandry earn from 9 d. to 1 s. a-day; masons and joiners from 15 d. to 20 d.; tailors somewhat less. The wages of a man servant, living in his master's house, are from L. 6 to L. 7 a-year; of a female servant from L. 3 to L. 4.

*Rent.*—Houses are let at from 6 to 7 per cent. on the rate at which they are built. The best arable land is rented at a guinea an acre, but sometimes higher. The best pasture ground at L. 2, 10 s. Land of an inferior quality at



from 10 s. to 15 s. The average rent of such farms as were let on lease about 36 years ago, does not exceed 5 s. an acre. Some farms consist of 200 acres, some of 300 and upwards. The whole farmers in the parish are only 29; the farms have, of late, been increasing in extent, and diminishing in number. The valued rent is L. 4294 : 19 : 8 Scotch; the real rent is about L. 2000 Sterling.

*Village of Laurencekirk.*—The village of Laurencekirk, in this parish, the property partly of the Earl of Kintore, and partly of Lord Gardenston, is, at present, thriving and populous. In 1730 the number of its inhabitants did not exceed 80. In 1762, when the estate of Johnston was purchased by Lord Gardenston, they had decreased to 54. In 1765, he began to build a new village, and marked out ground upon his own property, for a street to extend six furlongs in length. This is now nearly filled up with houses on both sides, and contains about 500 inhabitants. In 1779, the new village was erected into a burgh of barony; its territory fixed to the length of the king's highway, within his Lordship's estate, and to 838 yards in breadth on each side of the road; the burgeses are empowered to elect every three years, from June 1. 1780, a magistracy, consisting of a bailie and four councillors, to regulate the police and manage the concerns of the burgh, with the privilege of holding weekly markets, and an annual fair. The public-spirited proprietor of this village has also built and fitted up an elegant inn, with a library of books adjoining to it, chiefly for the amusement of travellers who may stop there. He has likewise encouraged and contributed liberally to the establishment of a bleachfield, in which about 17 hands are at present employed, and an additional number will very soon be needed. One residenter in the burgh manufactures linen to a moderate extent, for the use of the adjoining  
country,

country, and for other markets; 23 operative weavers are employed principally by him. The village has also 2 smiths, 3 masons, 4 shoemakers, 5 tailors, 10 wrights, and 1 stocking-maker, besides an attorney, a surgeon, and an artist for drawing.

*Church and Poor.*—The church was built in 1626; the manse in 1731. These buildings have been both repaired from time to time, but at present they stand greatly in need of farther reparation. The church is by much too small for the congregation. The masters of the New College of St Andrew's are patrons of the parish. They were first constituted titulars of the tithes, by Archbishop Hamilton in 1550. Sixty-two years afterwards they were ordained by the Commissioners of Parliament, perpetual patrons; and a stipend of 250 merks Scotch, the kirk lands pertaining to the college, as glebe, and a manse decerned to the minister. The present value of the living, including 19 acres of glebe, and kirk lands, and estimating the victual stipend at 12 s. Sterling a boll, is, at least, L. 90 Sterling.—About L. 25 Sterling, the annual amount of the Sunday collections, with the interest of some small mortifications, is divided among 12 poor householders.

*Population.*—The inhabitants of this parish are chiefly of the established church. Few Seceders or Episcopalians, and only two Roman Catholics reside here. The whole number, to which the population at present amounts, including persons of all ages and denominations, is about 1200, which is about 450 more than the amount in 1755, being at that time, according to Dr Webster's state of the population of Scotland, only 757 souls. The annual average of births is 33, of deaths 30, and of marriages, 15.

*Roads,*

*Roads, Bridges, Minerals, Fuel.*—The roads and bridges through this parish are in a tolerably good condition. They were originally made, and are still kept in repair by statute labour. The bridge at the village of Laurencekirk, indeed, has been lately raised and widened at Lord Gardenstone's expence.—Moor-stone, and free or sand-stone, are to be found through this parish.—Peats, whins, and broom are the only fuel it affords. Coals are brought from Montrose, which is 10 miles distant. The boll costs 8 s. 6 d. on the shore, besides 3 s. 6 d. for carriage.—One weak chalybeate spring rises near Johnston. Its water is used indiscriminately in various cases, and sometimes not without success.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It is a happy circumstance in the situation of this parish, that it lies in the middle of the Mearns, and is intersected by the great north road, leading from Edinburgh to the north, through Perth, Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Inverness, &c. It is thus a considerable thoroughfare; and derives no small advantage from the numbers of travellers who are perpetually passing. In the spring of that calamitous year, 1783, when a general scarcity took place, from the failure in the preceding crop, the kirk-session agreed to advance L. 50, and the administrators of the burgh L. 20, for the purchase of a quantity of meal, to be retailed in the course of the summer, in such small quantities as the kirk-session should respectively direct, to the industrious poor within the parish; the distribution to be regulated by tickets, and the price so reduced, that the session should lose L. 25 Sterling, and the burgh L. 10, by the purchase and the sale. By these precautions the poorer people were supplied with meal throughout the whole season, at the rate of 1 d. a-peck cheaper than it was sold any where in the neighbourhood, and lost no time in wandering about in search of it, which was the case in other places.

The

The same dialect of the English language is spoken here, as along the greater part of the eastern coast of Scotland.—No murders or suicides have been committed in this parish, nor have any emigrated, or been banished from it, so far as can be remembered. None have died for want, there being plenty both of bread and work in the place.—There is very little waste ground, and no common in the parish. There is a great deal of inclosed ground. The people are sensible of the advantages of inclosures, when made properly fencible, which is seldom the case where stones cannot be had, but at a great distance and expence.—As a specimen of the change, that has taken place within these 20 years, with regard to dress, it may be worth mentioning, that about 18 or 19 years ago, a hatter came from Edinburgh to settle in the village, and having arrived upon a Saturday, he attended public worship on Sunday; but seeing only three hats in the whole church besides his own, he was so discouraged, that he dropped his scheme, and left the place on Monday. But were he now here, he would hardly see a single bonnet in the whole congregation. The dress of the women has kept pace with that of the men, and the stile of living, in general, is proportionally altered.

\* \* For further particulars respecting this parish, the reader is referred to Lord Gardenston's Travelling Memorandums, p. 253. and to his letter to the people of Laurencekirk, therein mentioned.

## NUMBER XII.

ISLAND AND PARISH OF UNST,  
IN SHETLAND.

*Drawn up from the Communications of THOMAS MOUAT,  
Esq; of Garth, and the Rev. Mr JAMES BARCLAY.*

[*With a MAP of the ISLAND.*]

---

*Extent and Situation.*

UNST is the most northern of the Shetland isles. It belongs to the Presbytery of Shetland, which enjoys Synodical jurisdiction. It extends 8 computed miles in length from S. W. to N. E. and is, in breadth, from 2 miles to 3 and a half. Its form approaches to an oblong square. The island of Yell lies at some distance from it, on the S. W. side; Fetlar on the S.; to the N. W. the N. and the E. nothing appears but the wide expanse of the German Ocean. Unst lies in the latitude of 61° 12' north; and constitutes a part of the county and stewartry of Orkney and Shetland.

*Surface and Scenery.*—In comparison with the other Shetland isles, Unst is reckoned level, yet its surface is diversified by several extensive and moderately high hills.  
Vallafield,

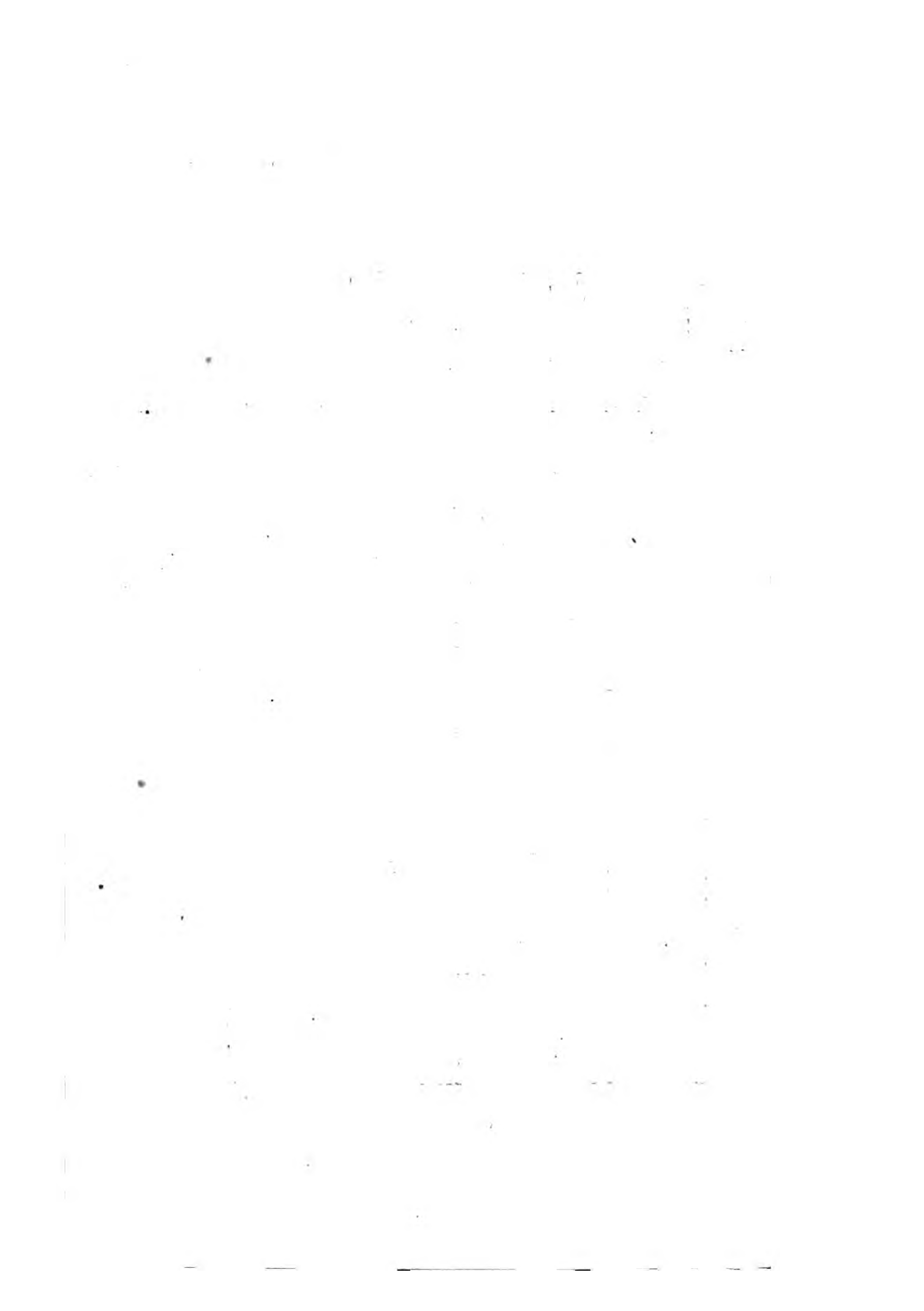
Engraved for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland



MAP & CHART  
of  
UNST & SHETLAND  
By Thomas Mount Esq. of  
Garth



J. Davis del.



Vallafield, rising within a mile and a half of its southern extremity, runs in a direction parallel to the western coast, and under different names, to the very northern point. Saxaforth, a hill of considerable height, and the highest in the island, lies towards its northern end. Crossfield stands nearly in the middle, and at right angles to Vallafield. Vordhill stretches out parallel to the east coast. Tracts of level ground are interspersed among these hills. The highest of the hills are still covered with moss, or black peat earth, to the depth of some feet. On such as are lower, (and there are several besides those which have been enumerated), the mosses have been exhausted, and the bare rocks appear here and there, through a thin layer of mould, covered with a green dry sward, which yields excellent pasture. The hill of Saxaforth is not less than 700 feet high, and may be seen 14 leagues off the coast. Vallafield rises to the height of 600 feet. The island is intersected by no rivers; but contains, (in proportion to its extent at least) many small fresh water lakes. Loch Cliff is two miles long, and nearly half a mile broad. The scenery is pleasant along its banks. A chain of smaller lochs run from Cliff to the southern end of the island.

*Sea-coast.*—The sea-coast of Unst being broken and indented by so many bays and creeks, its extent cannot be easily ascertained, nor has any accurate measurement of it been yet attempted. Several islets are scattered here and there around it. All the shores exposed to the main ocean, but especially the head lands, are considerably high and rocky. The highest of the head lands rises to the height of 60 or 70 fathoms. The shores of the bays and harbours again are low, shelving, and sandy. The little isle of Uya, about a square mile in extent, and inhabited, lies south of Unst, and forms, upon that quarter of this island, the harbour



bour called Uya found. Balta, on the east of Unst, an islet on which cattle are put to graze, forms the fine road or harbour of Balta found. Watfwick, on the S. W. side of the parish, is another harbour, but much more open and less extensive, than either of the two already mentioned. The principal bays are Harlswick, Norwick, Burra-firth, Woodwick, and Wick: In any of these, vessels may anchor for a tide or two, but none of them is a safe harbour. Besides the small isles of Uya and Balta, which protect the harbours named after them, the islets of Hafgruna and Hunie, with the holms of Sha, Burra-firth, Woodwick, Newgord, Hogaland, and Weatherholm, are also appendages of Unst. The tides flow nearly southward, and ebb northward: The windings of the coast, however, occasion them to vary slightly from these directions. The greatest velocity of the current in spring tides, is at the rate of 6 miles an hour. Off Lambanefs, the N. E. point of Unst, and of all Shetland, where there is a free communication between the Atlantic Ocean and the northern seas, the current flows with such rapidity, as to rise to an high swell that proves dangerous to the fishermen, even in calm weather\*.

*Caves and Rivulets.*—Around the coast there are a variety of natural caves. At Sha there is one, the roof of which is supported by natural pillars of an octagonal figure. At Burra-firth there is a number of caves, opening from the sea,  
and

\* The ancient inhabitants of these islands set up, on the eminences around the harbours, warts, or marks to direct the course of vessels sailing along the coast, placing one near the point of each arm of the harbour, and a third near the bottom. But although this be the northern extremity of the British dominions, and although these parts be not a little frequented, and even late in the year, by ships trading to the White Sea, and the northern parts of Norway, yet government has not hitherto been induced to erect a light house any where on the shores of this island.

and running backwards under the hills. The greater part of these are too low and narrow to admit a boat, but are not accessible by any other means. One only is visited once a-year, and plundered of the seals by which it is frequented. Eastward from the bay of Burra-firth, under an arm of the hill of Saxaforth, there is a grand natural arch, wide enough to admit a boat to row through it, 300 feet in length, and of considerable height. A short way eastward from this, there is another, but of a less magnificent appearance. This island has not yet been discovered to afford any mineral springs. The waters of a copious spring, called Yclaburn, or Hiclaburn, (the *burn of health*\*), although pure from all mixture, are esteemed, in the neighbourhood, to be highly beneficial to health.

*Fossils.*—Unst abounds in iron stone, which, however, has not yet been applied to any useful purpose. It affords large veins of jasper, some pieces of which are beautifully variegated with black and green shades and spots. Rock crystal, remarkable for its purity and hardness, has likewise been found here. A beautiful piece of garnet §, having twelve equal parallelogramic sides, was lately picked from a rock. Through the sparry rocks, cubical bits of sulphur, of a bright gold colour, are often found. A species of rough stone, of a long grain, a greyish colour, in appearance somewhat similar to decayed wood, fit for building, and very suitable for lintels, is found at Munes and Norwick. At Litlagarth there is a vein of dark brownish freestone, of a very durable nature. A soft stone, commonly named *Clemel*,

VOL. V.

A a

and

\* A custom formerly prevailed, for persons to throw three stones, as a tribute to the source of these salubrious waters, when they first approach it. A considerable pile has thus been raised. But the reputation of the spring begins to decline, and the superstitious offering is now no longer so religiously paid.

§ The size is represented in the plate.

and fit for moulds, is also among those which this island affords. Great plenty of white spar, or perhaps quartz, rounded by the action of the waves, is thrown up upon the sea beach. Some specimens of a grayish slate have been tried; but no quarries of it are wrought. Limestone abounds at Cliff, from which the vein proceeds in a south-westerly direction to Saxabernes, the south-west extremity of the island. The whole island abounds in clay of a very tough quality, and apparently very fit for bricks or pottery. A whitish substance, which seems to be an inferior species of marl, is found at Uya-found. Substances which seem to be ochreous, or bituminous, are also to be seen here and there; and matter of a naphthalic appearance has been observed upon the edges of some wells\*.

*Produce.*—Black oats, bear, potatoes, cabbages, and various garden roots, and greens which grow in great perfection, are the most common vegetables in this island. Artichokes, too, of a delicate taste, are produced here, with some small fruit, and most of the garden flowers that grow in the north of Scotland. There is little or no sown grass, but the meadows are rich in red and white clover, and in the seasons of vegetation, are enamelled with a beautiful profusion of wild flowers. The pasture grounds, in the commons,

\* No mines of any kind have hitherto been wrought in this island. But Mr Crichton of the Anglesea mining company, (who are now working for copper in the southern parts of Shetland,) declared immediately upon landing at Belmont, that the whole shore gave indications of its containing great abundance of coal near the surface. A variety of beautiful shells are scattered upon these shores, among which are the John o'Groat's buckie, and the Unicorn's horn. The sponge, called Mermaid's glove, is often taken up, upon this coast, by the fishermen's hooks. A great variety of corals, branching out in irregular forms, is likewise found here. The sea apple is also plentiful. The alga marina, with different other sea-weeds, are driven on shore by high surges.

commons, are generally covered with a short, tender, flowering heath. Some curious and rare plants have been discovered in this island by some gentlemen skilled in botany. The common people gather scurvy grafs, trefoil, and some other plants that grow in the island, for their medicinal qualities. The roots of the tormentil are used in tanning hides.

*Quadrupeds.*—The quadrupeds of this island, which, indeed, are common through the rest of the Shetland isles, are black cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, rabbits, dogs, cats, seals, and otters. The oxen weigh from 300 lb. to 500 lb. which may be valued at between L. 2 and L. 4 Sterling. The cows are of various colours. Some are curiously speckled and spotted, and weigh from 150 lb. to 200 lb. The beef of these is of very superior delicacy and flavour\*. The whole number of cows and oxen in the island is not fewer than 2000. Of these 1150 are milk cows. In  
spring

\* *Prices of Provisions.*—There are no regular markets for provisions in this island. But the prices may be estimated at the following rates: beef at three halfpence *per* pound; live calves, a week old, from 14 d. to 16 d. each; sheep, between two and five years old, from 3 s. to 4 s. 6 d.; pigs, ready for the spit, rarely to be bought under 1 s.; chickens three halfpence each; coarse butter twopence halfpenny *per* pound; eggs 1 d. a dozen; geese, 1 s. each; hens, 4 d. cocks, 2 d. The prices of meal and grain vary with the crops. In a plentiful year, oatmeal is sold at 2 s. the lispond, of 30 lb. Dutch weight, or 32 lb. 13 oz. English; when the crops prove bad, the price rises to 3 s. or 4 s. a lispond. In the years 1783 and 1784, meal from Scotland was sold here at 30 s. a boll. In years of less excessive scarcity, Scotch meal is bought here at 3 s. or 4 s. a lispond. The price of cattle has risen considerably within these last 15 years. In consequence of the increased value of the hides chiefly, of which considerable quantities are every year exported from Shetland to Leith, the value of a cow or ox has risen, in this space of time, from 15 s. or 20 s. to 30 s. and 40 s. and sometimes even considerably more. Flour, barley, biscuits, peas, sugar, wines, teas, spirituous liquors, &c. are all imported, and chiefly from Leith.

spring 1784, 570 cattle died for want of food, of which 280 were milk cows. The horses are well known for their small size and hardiness. They are called *shelties* in Britain. Though they measure only from 9 to 11 hands high, they are fit for riding, and all the ordinary services of husbandry, and are now frequently used in noblemen's and gentlemen's carriages. Of these there may be nearly 1000 in the island. But numbers of them die in severe winters, as they never enjoy the protection of a stable. The sheep weigh usually at full growth, from 30 lb. to 40 lb. each, and are covered with fleeces of the very finest of wool. The mutton of Unst, Fetlar, and Dunrossness, is esteemed the best in the country. The whole flock of sheep in this island having been lately numbered, in order to ascertain the value of the teind, was found to amount to 6600. A severe winter has, since, however, destroyed about a third of that number. Hogs abound also in considerable numbers, and weigh from 60 to 100 lb. each. They afford hams that are excellent, when properly cured. The dogs are of the common cur kind, and the cats often desert the houses and live wild among the rocks. Rabbits are more numerous in the islets of Balta and Hunie, (appendages of Unst,) than in any other part of Shetland, of equal extent. Rats, mice, frogs, toads, and adders are unknown here. Otters and seals are the only amphibious animals to be found on these shores. The seals breed in the caves above mentioned, and are found in great numbers on the shores of Uya, Haffgruna, Weatherholm, and Burra-firth. The otters are still more numerous. But neither are now found in the same abundance as formerly.

*Birds.*—The tame fowls are geese, ducks, pigeons, dunghill fowls, and a few turkies. The wild land fowls are plovers, pigeons, curlews, (commonly called *wbaap*) snipes,

snipes, red-shanks, herons, tirricks, (such is the vulgar name), black-heads, eagles, merlins, goshawks, ravens, crows, allens, starlings, grey linnets, larks, sparrows, robins, wrens, horse-gauks, corncraiks, land-larks, and stone-chatters. The birds of passage are swans, snow-flakes, and a few owls. The sea-fowls that haunt these shores are auks or marrots, gulls, and of these several varieties, cormorants, kittiweaks, tomnorries, lyres, calloos, wild geese, and ember geese. The eagles, which are of the species commonly denominated *Eern*, are very ravenous and destructive among the lambs; and the ravens and crows are little less so, at least in proportion to their size. By the police of the country, a reward of 3 s. and 4 d. may be claimed by every person who kills an eern; 3 d. for a corbie or raven, and 2 d. for a crow. These rewards are paid by the Commissioners of the land-tax, at eight of the heads of the fowls that have been killed. The neighbourhood of Burra-firth, for 3 or 4 miles westward, is frequented by innumerable flocks of migratory birds. The Kittiweaks are, however, most numerous. Their nests are placed usually upon the heights of rocks, and on the brink of precipices, 60 or 100 fathoms high \*, and in many places projecting awfully over the depth below.

*Fish.*

\* Although, in situations seemingly so inaccessible, yet these nests are plundered by the inhabitants, in spring, of many of the eggs, and in August, of the young fowls. The danger attending this robbery of the nests, does not deter the plunderers. They sometimes sail in boats to the bottom of the precipices, and climb upwards; sometimes they approach the brink above, and let each other down by ropes. Even at night, so fearless are these islanders, they will wander among the rocks, to surprise the old fowls upon the nests. The female parent often exhibits, upon such occasions, remarkable proofs of natural affection, beating the invader with her wings, pecking him with her bill, and even suffering herself to be taken upon the nest, rather than desert the protection of her young. The eggs and carcases of these fowls, form a considerable part of the food of the inhabitants upon these coasts, in the season when they are to be obtained. The feathers are also an article of considerable value.

*Fish.*—The lakes produce trouts and flounders. Ling, cod, tusk, skate, hollibut, and dogfish are caught in abundance on the coast of Unst, as well as of all the other Shetland isles. Pillocks, fillocks\*, haddocks, mackarels, and flounders, are got immediately upon the shore. The shell-fish are spouts, muscles, cockles, cullocks, smurlins, partans, crabs, limpets, and black wilks. A few sturgeons are sometimes driven ashore here, by high winds. The porpoise is frequently seen, but seldom caught. Large lean whales are sometimes stranded in the creeks, and sometimes chased ashore by boats. These commonly measure from 60 to 90 feet in length, and are denominated *finners*. The spermaceti whale, a much more valuable prize, sometimes wanders to this coast, and is here entangled and taken.

*Fishery.*—Fishing is an important branch of the industry of these islanders. By the sale of the ling, cod, and tusk which they take, the tenants obtain money to pay their rents. About 80 tons of these fish have, upon an average, been annually taken, for these last seven years. These are salted and dried, and in this state exported to Barcelona, Ancona, Lisbon, Leith, and Hamburg. The season for taking them, is from the beginning of June to the middle of August. All the men, in health, from the age of 16 to

60

\* These are a species of small grey fish, which are taken in large quantities upon the coast, and contribute greatly to the sustenance of the poorer inhabitants. They are a very nourishing article of food, and good oil is also prepared from them. In the present season, they have been taken in such abundance, that about 100 hogsheds of their oil will probably be exported, besides what may be used in the island. The oil is prepared from the livers of these fishes. They are fished with rods, and the bait used in angling for them is limpets, which have been previously boiled, to part them from the shell.

60 years, are commonly employed in this fishery. Five or six row in each boat. And there are at present no fewer than 78 boats in the parish, appropriated to the use of the fishing. These boats measure from  $15\frac{1}{2}$  to  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length of keel; are rowed with six oars, by a number of rowers proportionate to the size of the boat; and use from 30 to 60 ground lines, each 55 fathoms in length, and having from 18 to 20 hooks fastened to it, by a smaller line, half a fathom long. Piltocks, which are almost always to be obtained near the shore, are used as baits. The fishermen direct their course in sailing, by observations on the land, called *meetbs*, and formed from the bearings of two high eminences. They distinguish the spots frequented by the fish from observing the nature of the bottom. When successful in fishing, the smaller boats bring in about 300 lings; the larger from 500 to 600 in the season, besides considerable quantities of cod and tusk. Before the present year, the value of fresh ling was about 4s. a hundred weight, of fresh tusk, nearly the same, and of cod, 2s. 8d. These prices have fallen, however, 20 *per cent.* in consequence of the increased attention to fishing throughout all the north of Europe. The price of the dried fish is from 11s. to 14s. 6d. the hundred weight; and Government allows the curer a bounty of 3s. a hundred weight, which is called the *debenture*. The attention of both landlords and tenants is turned towards the improvement and extension of this fishery, as their best source of emolument. The number of men employed in fishing is about 350, who go out in 70 boats. The boats are put together here, but the boards are brought, ready shaped and dressed, from Norway. Two large boats, with decks, of 10 or 15 tons burden each, are also employed in conveying fish, salt, &c. between the creeks of this island and the port of Lerwick.

*Kelp.*



*Kelp.*—The manufacture of kelp was tried here, for the first time, in the year 1780. But the bays are, in general, too shallow, and the shores too much exposed to the ocean, to afford any great quantity of sea-weeds for this purpose. About 10 tons of kelp are annually prepared here; the expence of making it may be from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s. a ton, varying as the shores are more or less accessible; and the price which it brings is about L. 4 the ton.

*Agriculture.*—Before the fishery became an object of such general attention, agriculture was in a more thriving state. The farms have been since subdivided into smaller portions, and the number of the ploughs has decreased. The land annually plowed for black oats, bear, and potatoes, may be about 1500 acres. Tang and sea ware are used as manures, \* wherever they can be procured. The plough is of a peculiar structure, light and simple †. It has only one stilt; the stock is double feathered; the ploughman walks not behind the plough, but at the left side; the driver walks backwards; 2 horses and 2 oxen, 4 oxen or 4 horses are yoked abreast in it. A man may bear this plough to any distance in one hand. The greater part of our ground, however, is too rocky to be plowed, and is therefore delved with spades; and these are often used in the culture even of what

\* The people in this parish have a singular mode of preserving the dung for manure. It is not, as in other places, carried daily out of the stalls or byres in which the cattle stand, but is spread through the whole area of the house, and left to accumulate, till the cattle can no longer find entrance between the floor and the roof. Dry earth is sometimes carried in, and strewed as a mixture among the dung. And quantities of grass and short heath are, in August, every year, mown upon the hills, and after being left for some time to wither, carried home, put up in stacks like hay, and used from time to time in spreading the *byres*, so as to keep the cattle dry and warm amidst the dung accumulating under them. When the house is filled, the dung is carried out to be spread upon the fields.

† See the copperplate.

what might be tilled with the plough \*. No land is plowed here before spring. Oats are sown in the end of March, and beginning of April; bear begins to be sown in the end of April. The crops are fit to be reaped in September; and, by the end of October, the corn is usually in the yards, and the potatoes in the houses.

*Mills.*—The water-mills, like the ploughs, are of a singular construction. They are without wheels. A round piece of wood, about 4 feet in length, and fitted with 12 small boards, in the same manner as the extremity of the exterior wheel of an ordinary mill, with a strong iron spindle fixed to its upper end, supplies the place of a wheel in these mills. The iron spindle, passing through the under millstone, is fixed in the upper. A pivot in the under end of the *tirl* (the piece of wood above mentioned,) runs in a hollowed iron plate. The water falls upon the *awes* or feathers of the *tirl*, at an inclination of between 40 and 45 degrees. The millstones are commonly from 30 to 36 inches in diameter. The *tirl* occupies the same situation under this mill, as the trundles in the inner part of an ordinary

VOL. V.

B b

mill;

\* There are, in the whole island, only 2 day-labourers in husbandry. Every householder is an independent tenant, and fisher. A man servant qualified for all sorts of farm work, is paid from 30 s. to 35 s. a-year; and receives, besides, his board and a pair of shoes. A farm servant of inferior skill receives from 20 s. to 25 s. a-year. A boy, or young lad not fully grown, receives from 15 s. to 20 s. of yearly wages. Ordinary female servants are paid from 10 s. to 15 s. a-year. Domestic female servants, well qualified to sew and dress linens, are hired in the gentlemen's families at 40 s. or 45 s. a-year, and are allowed tea. Cook-maids, who have been out of Shetland, and have returned instructed, receive the same encouragement. Gardeners, and in general, all other servants from Scotland, receive somewhat higher wages here than in their own country. A pair of shoes in the year is a common perquisite throughout the island, to all ordinary male and female servants.

mill; and it performs the same office. The diameter of the *tirl* is always equal to that of the millstones.

*Commerce and Manufactures.*—Notwithstanding the numbers of cattle, and the large proportion of milk cows, no cheese is prepared in this island. The milk is almost all made into butter. Of this article, between 120 and 150 barrels, each of which may contain somewhat more than 200lb. are annually exported. Of beef, too, from 10 to 20 barrels, with tallow in proportion, are every year exported from the island. Almost every woman in the island manufactures fine woollen stockings. These are much valued for softness and warmth. Considerable quantities of them are sent every year to Edinburgh. The price which they bring, is from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. 6 d. the pair. Articles of finery for female dress are chiefly received in return. Some coarse cloth for the inner cloathing of the common people is likewise manufactured here. But of this the quantity is but small. Few of the inhabitants have been regularly bred to any mechanic art. Yet there are a number of self-taught builders, slaters, wrights, carpenters, tanners, shoemakers, weavers, and tailors, whose proficiency in these different arts is wonderful, when compared with their opportunities of improvement\*.

*Fuel.*—Peats are almost the only article of fuel used here. Some small quantities of Scotch and English coals are used by the more opulent inhabitants. But the expence of the freight,

\* A mason's wages are from 10 d. to 1 s. a day; a slater's, 16 d.; a wright's, from 16 d. to 20 d.; a carpenter's, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; a tailor's, 1 s. 4 d.; shoemakers receive from 8 d. to 10 d. for each pair of shoes. Their Board, which is always supplied by the employer, is included in this calculation.

freight, and the exorbitant duty which has very unreasonably been laid upon Scotch coals, exported beyond the Red-Head of Angus, render this article of fuel by much too dear for general use, through the Shetland isles. Even peats cost no little labour and expence; for although all the hills appear to have been originally covered over, in a great measure, with peat earth; yet, upon the whole east side of the island, except only in the south east corner of Muneſ, this natural fund of fuel has been, by degrees, entirely exhausted. The hills of Vallafeld and Saxaforth are, at present, the principal resources. But many of the inhabitants are at a very inconvenient distance from these. Some find it more commodious to import their peats from the neighbouring island of Yell. Others, especially the gentry resident about Balta Sound, are obliged to employ from 10 to 20 horses, for the space of six weeks, every year, to carry home their annual provision of peats.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The property of the island is at present divided among 37 heritors \*. Of these 26 are resident.  
The

\* The tenures of landed property, the subdivisions of the lands, and the forms in which the rents are paid, are, in some respects, peculiar here. The lands are understood to be divided into *merks*. A merk of land, however, does not consist uniformly of a certain area. In some instances, a merk may be less than an acre; in others, perhaps, equal to two acres. Every merk again consists of so much arable ground, and of another part which is fit only for pasturage, but the arable part alone varies in extent from less than one to two acres. Several of these merks, sometimes more, sometimes fewer, form a town. The towns vary in extent, like the merks of which they are composed. All the lands, not lying in common, are inclosed, (although awkwardly enough indeed,) by what are called *town-dikes*. These wind about with the utmost irregularity of form, in zig-zag directions, sometimes inclosing only one town; sometimes uniting several within the same inclosure; and, in certain places in the island, extending

The principal heritors are, in the order of the extent of their property, Mr Mouat of Garth, Mr Sanderson of Bunes, Mr Scot of Greenwall, and Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerse. Within these two years, a considerable part of the lands in the island have been sold by the former proprietors, and bought chiefly by gentlemen, who were before resident heritors, at from 40 to 70 years purchase of the neat rents. This circumstance is a clear proof of the great difference between the nominal and the real income, which the lands in the island afford. The whole rents of the parish, including scatt, teinds, land tax, and rents paid for fishings, may be equal in value to L. 790 Sterling. The valued rents, however,

ing around 30 or 40 farms together. Every farmer is obliged to repair, whenever it may become necessary, a certain part of these dikes, proportional to the extent of the land which he possesses. The whole lands within the dikes cultivated or reserved for pasture, are 2267 merks. The land-tax payable from this island amounts to about 5 d. for every merk of land within the town-dikes. The hills and commons are again divided into *scattolds*, from each of which a certain tax, called *scatt*, was anciently paid to the Crown of Denmark, when Shetland made a part of the Danish dominions; became payable to the Scottish monarch, when these islands were finally ceded to Scotland; fell at length, by donation from the Crown to a subject superior, and is at present payable to Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerse, Bart. Each merk of cultivated land within the town-dikes is burdened with the payment of from 1 s. to 15 d. of corn teind, in butter or oil. The proprietors of the lands receive for the arable part of every merk, 16 d. of yearly rent; and for the pasturage part, under the denomination of *grassum*, 8 merks of butter, each consisting of 20 ounces Troy. The *scatt* may amount to 6 d. for each merk of land, and is paid chiefly in butter and oil. The farmers pay likewise casual teinds from their cows, sheep, and *baaf* or fishing boats; for each cow, 3 merks of butter in the year; for their sheep, in lambs and wool, to the value of 1 d. for each, and for every *baaf* boat, 12 ling. Some of the common people possess lands upon what is called *udall* tenure. But the increase of luxury is daily tempting them to expences, which, in the end, force them to dispose of their landed property. It is probable, therefore, that this mode of tenure may, in a short time, entirely cease here.

ever, do not amount to near this sum. The largest farms let at L. 2, 12 s.; the smallest at 15 s. All the farms are not constantly occupied. The landlords rather court the tenants, than the tenants the landlords. The rents remain nominally nearly the same as they were 200 years ago. But these being paid in fish, in oil, in butter, the landlords continue to receive these articles nearly at the ancient prices; but they sell them at advanced rates proportionate to the increase of wealth, of industry, of population, and of luxury throughout Europe; and thus in reality enjoy an augmentation of income, as well as the proprietors of lands in other parts of the British dominions. Besides, circumstances render it necessary for them to act in some manner, as contractors with their tenants; supplying them with boats and the other implements for fishing, and with almost every article whether of necessity or of luxury which is imported for their use from foreign markets; while they purchase, in return, almost all the articles that the tenants can offer for sale; a traffic, by which they are naturally and reasonably gainers. The butter, it is also to be observed, is delivered to the landlord in certain cases by the *lispond*. This denomination of weight consisted originally of only 12 Scotch or Dutch pounds. By various arts, however, and different imperfect agreements, it has been gradually raised to 30 lb. The same number of lisponds still continue to be claimed by the landlord for his grassum rent, and by the proprietor of the teinds and crown rents, for what is payable to him in butter; notwithstanding so great an augmentation in the value of the lispond. This circumstance has operated very considerably to increase the revenue of the landholders. Complaints have, indeed, been made of the injustice, with which the proprietors of the teinds and the crown rents have availed themselves of it.

*Church and Poor.*—The whole income of the minister, consisting of the old money stipend, an augmentation obtained in 1785, and payable in butter, ling, wool, and lambs; a glebe of 12 merks of excellent land; an annuity allowed, in consequence of an agreement by the heritors, and three days work by the parishioners, may be estimated at L. 108 Sterling a-year. The manse is rather in a ruinous condition, but the present minister preferred the annuity above mentioned to a new manse. The church, which was built in 1764, and repaired in 1789, stands at a place called Balcasta, at the distance of 3 miles from the minister's abode. It should seem, that the ancient inhabitants of this parish, if not more numerous, must have been, at least, more religious than the present; for the remains of no fewer than 24 chapels still subsist in the island. So late as 1740, the clergyman was obliged to preach in three different places of worship in rotation. There are 6 burying places in the island, at the ruins of as many old kirks\*. Sir Thomas Dundas is patron.—The number of poor dependent on alms is generally from 25 to 30. For their support, the parish is divided into 14 parts, called *quarters*, through which the whole poor are dispersed. To each of these a proportional number is assigned. In every family, within each quarter, the poor belonging to it receive their board for as many days as the family occupies merks of land; and after proceeding in this manner through the whole families in that quarter, return upon the first again. When any person, unable to support himself, applies *to be*  
*put*

\* There is no parochial school. One reason against the establishment of such an institution is, that the inhabitants are too widely scattered through the island, to leave it possible for more than a very small proportion of the children to attend a school in any particular situation. But a public school will probably be soon established here.

*put upon the quarters*, (as it is called) the minister gives notice of the application from the pulpit; and if nothing be urged against his character or circumstances, as rendering him an improper object of the charity, he immediately obtains his request. The weekly contributions made at the church, together with the more liberal one at the celebration of the sacrament, are expended in the purchase of clothes, and other necessaries, for the poor, who are maintained upon the quarters. None are suffered to go about begging. Children, if in moderately comfortable circumstances themselves, are obliged to support their aged parents, when they fall into extreme poverty; but are assisted from the funds in the hands of the kirk session, with money for the purchase of clothes to them.

*Population.*—The number of inhabited houses in this island is at present 300. The whole number of the inhabitants, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1368. In 1780, it had increased to 1853; and at present, (in 1791) amounts to 1988\*. The females are more numerous than the males. The annual births have been, upon an average, for these last 10 years, 78; the marriages 14; and the deaths, besides losses at sea, 21 yearly. The number of  
the

\* If the numbers have increased, however, within these last 30 or 40 years, it is owing chiefly to the introduction of inoculation for the small pox. For more than 100 years past, this epidemical distemper used to visit the island nearly every 20 years, and to carry off, with the rage of a pestilence, great numbers of all ages. In 1770, inoculation became general here among all ranks. In 1783, a general inoculation was repeated through the parish with the most flattering success. Consumptive and rheumatic complaints have become much more frequent within these last 15 or 20 years than formerly. Convulsive fits have been very prevalent through this island, chiefly among the female sex. But, happily, this awful and afflicting disorder is becoming daily less frequent. In the years 1740, 1766, and 1783, excessive scarcity was felt here. But even in these periods of famine, none are known to have absolutely died for want.



the latter would be greater, did not so many of the young men go to sea. Some go aboard Greenland ships, which anchor every year in Balta Sound, both in sailing to the North Seas, and in their return. Unst furnishes the tenth part of 100 seamen whom the Shetland isles are, by agreement, obliged to furnish to government for the Royal Navy, upon any extraordinary emergency. Fishing boats are sometimes lost, too, by accidents at sea. From the waste of the peat earth upon the eastern side of the island, it should seem, that Unst must have been peopled at a very remote period; and the great comparative extent of the arable and inclosed ground affords reason for presuming, that the population may have been anciently \* more numerous than at present.

*General*

\* The Norwegian or Norse tongue appears to have been the ancient language of this, as well as of the other Shetland isles. Most of the proper names have their origin in that tongue. On each side of the island there is a line of old buildings, at moderate distances from one another, which are said to have been Pictish castles. These are round towers, open above, and having very strong and thick walls built of very large stones. The interior area of each of these may be about 20 or 30 feet in diameter. The walls are penetrated by galleries, into which probably the neighbouring inhabitants might retreat in times of danger, while their moveables were secured in the open area of the building. Some of these stand in the middle of lakes; some are guarded on three sides by the sea; and they are generally surrounded by three or four moats of considerable depth. At Mune's there is a ruinous feudal castle, which appears, by an inscription in Saxon characters above the gate, to have been built in the year 1598 by Laurence Bruce, who is said to have been from Cultmalundie, in Perthshire, and to have fled hither in consequence of having slain a neighbour in an affray. It is an oblong square, 60 feet long, by 18 feet wide within, and 24 feet in height. At each of the four angles there is a tower. Two of these are hanging, and the other two rise from the ground. On the east side of the parish, between Balta Sound and Harlwick, there are two high eminences, called the *Hoap*. On one of these there is a heap of stones intermixed with human bones. They are both precipitous,

*General Character.*—The people are frank and open in their manners; bold, hardy, and humane; and industrious, as far as circumstances have arisen to excite and cherish industry among them. In cases of shipwreck upon these shores, the sufferers are received by the islanders with the kindest and most attentive hospitality. The poor of the parish are treated as children of the families into which they are admitted. Music and dancing are favourite amusements, especially in winter. Many of the common people play with skill upon the violin. Gin is the spirituous liquor most generally in use; and although there are no ale-houses, is often drunk by the lower classes in too great quantities. Violations of chastity happen now and then. An inordinate taste for finery in dress has, of late, begun to prevail through the island. None of the young men ever enter into the army.

*Proposed Improvements.*—An increased bounty upon the fishery, perhaps a conversion of the teinds, rents, and scatt into money, and any fortunate concurrence of circumstances, that might induce the natives to turn their attention more to the improvement of their sheep and wool, would undoubtedly contribute greatly to better the circumstances, and increase the numbers of the inhabitants of this island. It is believed, that when Shetland was finally ceded

VOL. V.

C c

ded

precipitous, and are said to have been places for the execution of criminals. Near these is a ruinous building, said to have been the Judgment Hall. A causeway leads to it from the foot of the rock. On the hill of Crossfield are some concentric circles of earth and stone, with eminences raised in the middle. Upon the same hill there is a small heap of stones in the form of a grave, surrounded with a row of rude pillars. Two ancient obelisks remain; one near Lund, a thick and shapeless rock; the other near Uya Sound, seems to have been a mark for directing into that harbour, and is ten and a half feet high, slender and tapering to the top.

ded to Scotland by the Danes, the *scatt* was fixed as the *only* land-tax that should ever be levied upon these islands. Since a new land-tax has, however, been imposed, it seems reasonable, that government should abolish the payment of the *scatt*, by a compromise with the present proprietor, and a compensation made to him for the loss which he would thus sustain.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—No roads have yet been made through this island, either by statute labour or otherwise. Only a very few carts are used in it, and no carriages for pleasure. Inclosures have been tried by two gentlemen, and have been found of the utmost utility. There is no post-office in this island. The only post-house, indeed, in Shetland, is at Lerwick, which is 40 miles distant from this.

Perhaps the most extraordinary circumstance respecting this and the rest of the Shetland islands, is this, that the landholders have hitherto supinely waved their inherent right of representation in Parliament, lately confirmed by a solemn judgment of the House of Peers, and have tamely suffered the freeholders of Orkney alone, to chuse the representative for both countries; thereby depriving themselves of all that Parliamentary influence which their neighbours hold in such high estimation.—Yet being thus exempted from the evils of political dissention, it is questionable, whether their situation is not, on the whole, the better of the two, being more favourable to peace, to union, and to virtue, if it is less calculated for promotion and preferment.

NUMBER XIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF  
URQUHART AND LOGGY WESTER,

(COUNTY OF ROSS.)

*By the Rev. Mr CHARLES CALDER.*

---

*Origin of the Names.*

THE particular period, when the parishes of Urquhart and Wester Loggy were united, is not known. None of the parochial records are of an older date than the year 1709; at which time they made but one parish. One of these parishes derives its designation, according to a tradition current in the place, from the first church, on its formation into a parish, having been built by a lady of eminent piety, *Sophia Urquhart* by name, of the family of Cromarty. The landed property of that family in this country was anciently of vast extent; and to that lady, it is said, the lands of Urquhart had been allotted as her dowry. Though they have long since passed from that to a different line of proprietors, yet still many of the inhabitants of this, and some of the heritors of the adjacent parish, are of that name. *Loggy*, the name of the other united parish, is a Gaelic word, descriptive of the situation of  
the

the old church of that parish, of which the ruins are still extant in a pleasant *valley*, on the water of Conan, with the contiguous grounds gently sloping towards it, and overlooked by those on the opposite side of the river. It is called *Loggy Wester*, to distinguish it from another parish of the same name, within the bounds of this Synod.

*Situation, Extent, Proprietors, &c.*—Considering these parishes, which were thus originally divided, as now but one, and *Urquhart*, (agreeable to general use), as comprehending both, its extent is about 9 or 10 statute miles in length, and from 3 to 4 in breadth. It belongs to the Presbytery of Dingwall, and Synod of Ross. It lies along Cromarty Frith, terminating in the river of Conan, in a direction nearly from E. to W. and in a position in general gently declining towards the shore. At high water the tide flows to within about 2 miles of the western extremity of the parish, and at low water retires much the same distance from its eastern extremity, leaving exposed a flat beach, with the river lying about half way between the opposite shores.—There are only 3 heritors in the parish, by whose estates it is formed into as many distinct divisions, each of them occupying a continued extent of some miles along the shore, (including under that designation, both the sea coast and the bank of the river), and running from thence to the uncultivated heights or ridge of moor lying between this parish and those of Killearnan and Kilmuir-Wester. The principal seats of the heritors, and the bulk of the fortunes of some, if not all of them, lie in other parishes. They have, however, seats in this parish. There is an old, but a good house, and lately repaired, at Findon, in the eastern division of the parish, belonging to Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell. It is pleasantly situated between Cromarty Frith on the one side, and a beautiful oak wood on the other.

other. There are a good many other forest trees of considerable size, scattered about the place; and it is furnished with an excellent garden. Fields and trees interspersed, and alternately intersected by a purling brook, which runs by the house into the sea, form altogether a pleasing scene. The proprietor does not reside at this place. On this estate there is a market town on the high road from Dingwall and the ferry of Scuddale to Cromarty. It is provided with an inn; and 4 fairs are held at it throughout the year.

The chief proprietor of this parish, Mr Forbes of Culloden, whose estate here lies between those of the other two heritors, and is known by the name of Ferrintosh, has only a small, but neat and commodious lodge in it, occupied by his factor. As Ferrintosh does not constitute the principal, so neither is it the oldest part of the landed property of the Culloden family. It signifies in Gaelic the *Thane's Lands*, and made anciently a part of the Thanesdom of Calder. That family being heritable Sheriffs of the county of Nairn, Ferrintosh, whilst their property, was on that account, (notwithstanding the distance, and the intervention of the Moray Frith,) annexed to that county. It passed from their possession, about the beginning of last century; but its connection with that county in some respects still subsists. Hence Mr Forbes of Culloden, as Baron of Ferrintosh, votes in Parliamentary elections for the county of Nairn. The houses, on some parts of Ferrintosh, are extremely numerous. There is an oak wood on this estate of considerable extent. It abounds with delightful walks, and adds much to the ornament of the place. But the oaks in this parish attain not in general to any considerable size, and are much retarded in their growth from not being inclosed.—Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch, the only other heritor belonging to this parish, has

a handsome modern house at his place of Conanfide, in the west end of the parish, where he resides a part of the year. Situated on the banks of the river Conan, this place possesses many natural beauties; and it has of late been much improved by art. There are plantations of firs on this estate, of considerable extent. Some of them are intermixed with forest trees, and all of them in a thriving condition. Where dismal bleakness lately prevailed, the eye is now presented with refreshing verdure.

*Population.*—The population of this parish, as appears from the following statements, has been very variable. Occasional chafms in the old registers, are partly the cause of selecting the particular periods in the subsequent table of births and marriages. No register of deaths has been kept in this parish; nor could the number be so easily ascertained as in many other parishes, there being two burial places.

*Table of Births and Marriages per annum, upon an average of three years, at different periods.*

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1737—38—39	29	
1747—48—49	49	17
1777—78—79	83	21
1786—87—88	37	13
1789—90—91	43	15

*Number of Souls at different periods.*

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Souls.</i>
1755	2590
1779	3022
1789	2597
1792	2901

*State*

State of the Population for 1792.

Males,	-	-	1357	} 2901
Females,	-	-	1544	
			<hr/>	
Below 10 years of age,	-	-	814	
Between 10 & 20,	-	-	609	
———— 20 & 50,	-	-	984	
———— 50 & 70,	-	-	437	
———— 70 & 100,	-	-	56	
Above 100,	-	-	1	
			<hr/>	2901

69 houses occupied,	each by		1 inhabitant,	Total.
86	—	—	2 inhabitants,	69
89	—	—	3 —————	172
79	—	—	4 —————	267
90	—	—	5 —————	316
83	—	—	6 —————	450
61	—	—	7 —————	498
33	—	—	8 —————	427
18	—	—	9 —————	264
10	—	—	10 —————	162
6	—	—	11 —————	100
3	—	—	12 —————	66
1	—	—	13 —————	36
2	—	—	14 —————	13
1	—	—	15 —————	28
1	—	—	18 —————	15
<hr/>				18
632				<hr/>
				2901

Tradesmen,



*Tradesmen, including their Apprentices.*

Masons,	-	34	Tailors,	-	29
Carpenters,	-	16	Shoemakers,	-	18
Millers,	-	8	Smiths,	-	7
Weavers,	-	29			

*Ferrintosh Privilege.*—The great decrease in the number of inhabitants in this parish, which appears from the above difference of its population in the years 1779 and 1789, began to take place in 1786, and was occasioned by an event of general notoriety, and which was at that time the subject of Parliamentary discussion. The lands belonging to Mr Forbes of Culloden, which go by the name of Ferrintosh, and form the central and largest division of the parish, possessed from 1690 to 1786, an exemption from the duties of excise on spirits distilled from grain of their growth. This privilege was originally granted to the present proprietor's great grandfather, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, one of those patriots, who, at the glorious period of the Revolution, stood up in defence of the religion and liberties of their country. By opposing the disaffected, and supporting the loyal subjects in his neighbourhood, at much expence, he was materially instrumental in quashing a rebellion, which at that time threatened the north of Scotland. Going some time thereafter to Holland, in prosecution of the same patriotic plan, the Popish faction, during his absence, laid waste his estates, particularly the barony of Ferrintosh, and destroyed extensive distilleries, of which it was the seat at that time, and before the introduction of the Excise into Scotland. In compensation for the losses, which he had thus sustained in the service of Government, the Parliament of Scotland, by an act passed in 1690, farmed to him and his successors, the yearly excise

title of the lands of Ferrintosh, for the sum of 400 merks Scotch, subject, as explained by a posterior act, to a proportion of any additional duties of excise, that might thereafter be imposed by law upon the kingdom. This privilege his successors enjoyed without interruption, till the year 1786. As a mark of public favour, it was not more honourably acquired at first, than it was amply merited afterwards, by a continued succession of important services in their country's cause. In 1715, the original grantor's son, adhering to the principles of the Revolution, raised all the men upon his estates, and deeply impaired his private fortune, by keeping them in arms at his own expence, till that rebellion was happily quelled. The services rendered to Government in 1745, by that great man and ornament of his country, the Honourable Duncan Forbes of Culloden, President of the Court of Session, are universally known. At the breaking out of that rebellion, he applied himself with zeal to nip it in the bud. He successively invited the chieftains to Culloden house, and whilst he delighted them by his conversation and winning manners, he so wrought on them by his persuasive eloquence, that he was the happy instrument of keeping thousands from joining the Pretender's standard. His exertions at that critical conjuncture, whilst they brought his own liberty, and even his life into imminent hazard, involved his family in a debt, double to that with which he had found it loaded, from his predecessor's zeal in the same cause, and amounting together to upwards of L. 30,000 Sterling. About two thirds of that sum, and less than 16 years purchase of its proven increasing value, was the allowance made by Government to the present proprietor, on their resumption of this immunity in the year 1786.—The singularity of this privilege, and its great influence, in a statistical view, on the condition and number of the

VOL. V. D d inhabitants

inhabitants of this parish, have led to this short account of its origin, and of the services by which it was earned.

Upon the extinction of this right, many of the people, being deprived of employment, were obliged to seek elsewhere for that support, which they had no expectation that the place could any longer afford; and in a little time thereafter, the inhabitants of the parish were found to have decreased some hundreds in number. Few of them, however, left the kingdom; their supposed superior skill, in the business to which they had been inured, occasioned a demand of hands from Ferrintosh, wherever distilleries were erected under the new act of Parliament, respecting that branch of revenue, which took place about the same time with the deprivation of their privilege. This decrease of inhabitants ceased, however, in the course of two or three years after the event to which it had been owing. Since that time, the population of the place has been uniformly advancing, and amounts at present to little short of what it has been at any former period. The extent to which their original occupation, though stripped of its former advantages, is now again carried on, partly occasions this returning increase of the population; but it is owing, in a still greater degree, to that attachment to the *natale solum*, which induces the poor people, to settle in the moor grounds in the skirts of the parish, rather than to seek for subsistence by emigration, and because the proprietors are beginning to see, (what, it is to be hoped, they will see still more), the good policy of giving them all due encouragement in their little improvements. But it was not solely the population of the parish, that was affected by Government's resuming the Ferrintosh privilege. The people of that district, who constitute the great body of the parish, underwent in general a great deterioration, as to their circumstances and mode of living, from that event,

event, against which few of them comparatively had made any provision. The monopoly they enjoyed, and the acknowledged superiority of the spirits produced from their small stills, occasioned a demand for them from all quarters, and a constant circulation of cash in the place, which brought the people in general an ease in their circumstances, and a fulness of the necessaries of life, beyond what commonly falls to the class of farmers. A transition in these respects to the level of their neighbours, so abrupt, would have been more severely felt, had it not found some mitigation in the distinguished humanity of the proprietor of these lands. But the business of distillation is now resumed in Ferrintosh, and diffused throughout the parish in general, to an extent that requires a very considerable annual importation of barley, and gives employment to 29 licensed stills. There are, however, very few who derive from it any benefit; but the mischief resulting from it is manifest; and there is too much cause to apprehend, from the low price of spirits, and the restriction as to a foreign market, that the country in general may furnish multiplied instances of the pernicious tendency of this trade, as an inlet to intemperance, and a bane to the industry and morals of the people.

*Rent, Church, Schools, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3011 Scotch. The real rent, exclusive of the salmon fishing on the water of Conan, is supposed to be upwards of L. 2000 Sterling. Mr Forbes of Culloden is patron of the parish. The minister's stipend is paid partly in victual and partly in money; of the former, five chalders of barley, and one of meal; of the latter, 600 merks, with 100 more for communion elements. Besides the glebe in the neighbourhood of the manse, there is another adjacent to the ruins of the old church of Loggy, and within the  
improvements

improvements at Conan-side, the proprietors of which place have farmed it for a series of years past. The manse was built in the year 1777. The present church has been recently condemned, as unworthy of reparation, and a new one is begun to be built in a different and more eligible situation; for which, and a wall to inclose it, a sum of L. 580 Sterling is allotted. Besides the parochial school, there are two others, in the more remote districts of the parish, established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and to the support of which, the respective proprietors laudably contribute. All these schools, for a great part of the year, are numerously attended, and productive of the most beneficial consequences, in diffusing among the people religious instruction, and civilization of manners.

*Farms, Produce, &c.*—The farms in this parish are small, paying, at a medium, it is supposed, about 18 bolls, or nearly that value, between money and victual. After payment of the rent, the subsistence they yield to the tenant is extremely scanty. Tradesmen and day-labourers occupy a great many crofts, or smaller possessions, which pay from a few shillings to L. 2. of rent. There are, however, a few farms in the parish, of considerable extent, and of which the possessors enjoy more favourable circumstances. Some of these are furnished with cattle of large size, and implements for husbandry of a correspondent good quality. Very little of the ground has been inclosed. The crops commonly raised are barley, oats, and potatoes, with some pease and rye. No wheat, and but an inconsiderable quantity of grass seeds, are sown in this parish. The horses used here are generally of a small size. The black cattle are of rather better quality. The sheep are inconsiderable in number, and of the common Scotch breed.

*FreeStone,*

*Freestone, Fishing, &c.*—Through a great part of the parish, along the sea, and the rivulets running into it, quarries of freestone abound, which supply the country around in millstones, and from whence other hewn work is occasionally sent by boats across the frith. There is a salmon fishing belonging to the Cromarty estate, on the water of Conan, from whence the fish are sent to Inverness, to be shipped for London. Except the few hands employed about the fish, nets and coops, at that place, there are no fishermen belonging to this parish; nor are any fish worth mentioning to be found elsewhere on this shore, except an inconsiderable quantity of salmon, and small fish of different kinds, in a *wear* belonging to the Ferrintosh estate.

*Fuel.*—This parish is very ill supplied with fuel. Those, whose circumstances can afford it, make use of coals; but the bulk of the inhabitants have no other fire, but what the surface of the moor furnishes them with, or what they can procure from mosses of a light unsubstantial quality, at the distance of 2 or 3 miles, and at a great expence of time and labour. Such as are engaged in the business of distilling, use partly coal, but chiefly peats got from other parishes, on each side of the frith, and at high prices.

*Poor.*—In this populous parish the poor are very numerous. The number of them on the kirk-session's list commonly exceeds 200. The funds allotted for their relief, being partly of a fluctuating nature, cannot be ascertained with precision. They admit, however, one year with another, after payment of salaries to the session-clerk, and other parish officers, of a distribution among the poor, of about L.23 or L. 24 Sterling annually. The general and severe scarcity, of the years 1783 and 1784, called for a more unrestrained

restrained use of their funds ; and for these two years their usual allowance was nearly doubled \*.

*Language, Antiquities, &c.*—Gaelic is the language commonly spoken, and universally understood in this parish. The English is, however, understood by a great many of the inhabitants. Public divine service is performed in both languages. The names of places throughout the parish are evidently of Gaelic origin.—At the S. W. extremity of the parish, in an extensive high but level moor, there are several *tumuli*, or large conical heaps of stones. There is not any tradition as to the particular occasion of collecting them. By the directions of the proprietor, one of them was lately laid open, when 3 stone coffins were found in it, ranged in a line from east to west †.

*Ferries,*

\* There being no *manufactures*, (that of grain into spirits excepted), established in this place, nor improvements going on in it of any consideration, together with other circumstances, occasions the number of our poor being so great. There are, however, very few places in this country, into which manufactures, that would afford general employment to people of different ages, and of both sexes, could be introduced, with such prospect of advantage, or bid fairer for rescuing numbers from the penury and distress, in which they languish at present, from want of employment. Besides inducements of a more important nature for such an establishment, there are buildings, which, during the existence of the Ferrintosh privilege, were erected by a company for the purpose of distilling, and now lie unoccupied. They are of very considerable extent, situated about the middle of the parish, and contiguous to the shore, where there is occasionally a depth of water, sufficient for vessels of 100 tons burden.

† As to *climate, wages of servants, prices of provisions*, and several other objects of a statistical nature, there is nothing peculiar to be observed with regard to this parish, or different from the accounts already presented to the public from other parishes in the neighbourhood ; only as to the last of these articles, and mercantile goods in general, a considerable additional expence, and much inconvenience are incurred in this place,

*Ferries, &c.*—There are two or three ferries in this parish, one of them is at its eastern extremity and opposite to Fowlis, from whence it has its name. This is not a much frequented ferry, and is incommodious at low water, from the shallowness of the shore. Towards the west end of the parish on the river of Conan, and beyond where the tide at any time flows, is the ferry of Scuddale, on the post road from Beauly to Dingwall. Besides these ferries, there is a small boat for foot passengers, which, at high water, plies between Dingwall and Ferrintosh. On the tide's retiring, and when the river is not high, there is access to Dingwall from this side of the water by different fords. Some of these fords have a zig-zag direction, which they retain amidst partial variations, to which all of them are very subject, from the united force of high tides, and frequent swellings of the river. These circumstances, together with the rapid flowing of the tide at particular times, render this a hazardous passage, which proves fatal to many. Since the settlement of the present minister, in 1774, scarce a year has passed without the loss of some life on it. Some years it has brought 2, 3, or more, to an untimely end. Within the course of 14 months, about 8 years ago, 7 persons perished in crossing the water of Conan, at different places within the limits of this parish. Humanity strongly solicits the long promised public aid, for erecting a bridge on a  
river,

place, from not having access to either Inverness or Dingwall, (the only towns which can supply it in these articles), without the intervention of a ferry. Its situation with regard to a post-office is subject to the same inconvenience, and occasions a heavy drawback on the pleasure of public intelligence and private correspondence. From the great number of inhabitants, there can be little doubt, that the establishment of a post-office, in this parish, would do more than defray the necessary expence, and, at the same time, contribute essentially to their accommodation.



river, in which the hopes and supports of many families have fallen by a premature fate.

*Character.*—Whilst the people of this parish enjoyed peculiar advantages, as to their external situation, their character was strongly marked, by a correspondent hospitality of disposition, and liberality to those in distress. Though, as to the generality, their ability is now circumscribed, the same dispositions still prevail, and are ready to show themselves by suitable exertions on every proper occasion. Every general collection, for any charitable purpose, vindicates their title to this praise. The people, in general, are very regular in their attendance on public worship; nor are there Dissenters in the parish of any denomination, except some Episcopalians, who live in the western district, and attend a place of worship in a neighbouring parish. Populous as this parish is, there has not been an instance during the time of the present incumbent, which is 18 years, nor long before, to the best of his knowledge, of an individual belonging to it being guilty of a capital offence, or even suffering banishment. This happy exemption from criminal prosecutions, and these favourable traits of character, are owing, in a very considerable degree, to the advantages which this parish has long enjoyed, for the education of its youth\*. The early establishment of a school in it, by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, at which, for a long tract of years, about 100 children, (besides those enjoying similar advantages at the parochial school), have annually received instruction in the great duties of religion and morality, as well as the first principles

\* The present teacher of the parochial school has kept it upwards of 20 years, and it is remarkable, that during the space of 3 years, 12 of his pupils have been sent to college, to study divinity, &c.

principles of literature, could hardly fail, in such a course of time, to have a happy influence on the character and manners of the people. From the recent extension of the same advantages by that excellent institution, in consideration of the extreme populousness of this parish, to its western and most remote district, similar good effects are expected. And much room, it must be confessed, there still remains with us, for advancement in that purity of manners, of which the principles of Christianity, when duly inculcated and received, must ever be productive.

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF MAINS OF FINTRY,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*Communicated by the Rev. Mr CHARLES PEEBLES.*

---

*Name, Situation, Soil and Climate, &c.*

THE ancient name of this parish was *Stratbdighty*, being part of that pleafant strath, through which Dighty directs its course to the frith of Tay. The present name is Mains of Fintry, from the old family feat of Fintry, which is near the church. It belongs to the prefbytery of Dundee, and fynod of Angus and Mearns. It is 4 miles long, and 3 broad about the middle; but becomes considerably narrower toward the extremities. The water of Dighty, which runs from west to east, interfects the parish into nearly two equal parts; and from the banks of this beautiful stream, the ground rifes gently to the north and south. The face of the country has a sweet and delightful appearance, being all inclosed with thorn hedges, which are in a very flourishing state. They shelter and beautify the fields; but at the same time attract great flocks of birds, which

which destroy much of the grain. There is also a good number of large oak and ash trees, and some thriving plantations in the parish. The soil in the haughs is a deep loam, and produces excellent crops. The rest of the parish, with some little exception, is a pretty deep mould upon till, and is very fertile. The air is dry and salubrious, there being no stagnated water in the parish. Hence there are no epidemical or topical diseases, and the people in general enjoy very good health; only they are now and then visited by consumptions and fevers.

*Population.*—From the register of baptisms, this parish appears to have been much more populous 80 years ago than at present. At that period, the number of souls was above 1200. In the year 1768, it contained only 660. This decrease was occasioned by ejecting the subtenants, and enlarging the farms; and from the people removing into the neighbouring town of Dundee, where employment was more easily procured. It is now increasing very rapidly, from the encouragement given to labourers, and from the amazing number of hands employed in bleaching, and other manufactures carried on upon the water of Dighty. Hence, in the year 1790, the number of souls was found to be 878, which is considerably greater than it was 40 years ago.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of MAINS of  
FINTRY.

LENGTH in English miles, -	4	Number of Seceders, - - -	40
Breadth, - - -	3	Proprietors residing, -	2
Population in 1790, -	878	non-residing, -	5
Ditto, in 1755, - - -	709	Clergymen, -	1
		Tradesmen, -	42
Increase, - - -	169	Apprentices, -	10
Annual Average of Births, -	28	Schoolmasters, -	1
Deaths, -	10	Farmers, -	25
Marriages, -	9	Souls in their fami-	
Number of Males, - - -	600	lies, - - -	225
Females, - - -	278	Male servants, -	70
Persons under 10		Female ditto, -	40
years of age, -	210	Poor, - - -	8
from 10 to 20, -	250	Annual average of their sup-	
20 to 50, -	250	port, - - -	L. 10
50 to 70, -	150	Number of Ploughs, -	43
70 to 100, -	18	Four-wheeled Car-	
Families, (about 6 in		riages, - - -	1
each), - - -	154	Carts, - - -	82
Members of the		Horses, - - -	1500
Established Church, -	838	Black Cattle, -	300

Valued rent, in Scotch money, L. 1933 . 6 8

Real rent in Sterling ditto, 2500 0 0

Number of Acres under Oats, -	200	Number of Acres under Flax, -	20
Barley, - - -	300	Turnips, - - -	50
Wheat, - - -	100	in Pasture, -	300
Potatoes, - - -	30	Sown Grass, -	700

*Church,*

*Church, School, Poor, &c.*—The King is patron of the living of Mains. The stipend is worth about L. 90. The church seems originally to have been a Roman Catholic chapel, as the fount is yet to be seen, and a small press in the wall, with an iron door, in which perhaps were deposited some of their sacred relics. It is very ancient, and, though it lately received some repairs, is still in a ruinous condition. The manse\* was built in 1760, and, though not a large house, is very sufficient and commodious. The poor are all maintained in their own houses; their funds arise from the collections on Sabbath, which may be about L. 10 *per annum*, from the produce  
of

\* There is an old castle near the manse of great antiquity. It was built in the year 1311, but by whom is uncertain. It was for a great series of years, the property and residence of the Grahams of Fintry. The buildings are in the form of a square, with a strong tower in the front. There is only one principal gate, which is towards the west. It has a good deal of out-works, and seems to have been a place of considerable strength. Tradition relates, that during the feudal system, its proprietors maintained almost a constant war with the family of Powrie, another strong hold in the neighbouring parish. Above the principal gate there is a passage, which seems to have been designed for the inhabitants to pour down boiling water, or stones, or any other offensive materials, upon their assailants when they attempted to force it. This old castle stands upon a pretty steep bank of a small rivulet, which separates it from the minister's garden. It is surrounded with very high trees, which, when covered with foliage, almost conceal it; and the chimney heads appearing over their tops, with here and there a peep of the old ruins, have a very picturesque appearance from the windows of the manse. The foundations of the old castle, one of the proprietors of which (*viz.* Claverhouse) distinguished himself in persecuting the Presbyterians, under Charles II. were lately dug up by a farmer. There appeared to have been a Popish chapel belonging to the house, as the fount, altar piece, &c. were discovered. There are in the church yard two stone coffins, of about two and a half feet deep, which consist of four large stones, secured at the corners with bars of iron. Tradition relates, that the plague once raged in this parish, and that the bodies of some of the unhappy sufferers were there inclosed.

of the mortcloth, and a two-wheeled machine for carrying the dead, which is sometimes let for hire; and from the interest of a small mortification. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scotch; the school wages are very small, and oft ill paid. His whole living does not amount to above L. 14 a-year. Upon this he could not possibly subsist, were it not for the encouragement he has for boarding. It is surely a pity, that such a useful class of men, who lay the foundation of all morality and religion, cultivating the tender mind, and "teaching the young idea how to shoot," should be so shamefully neglected. While the Legislature is meliorating the situation of the clergy, surely the poor schoolmasters ought not to be neglected.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—Land here is rising in its value, and is generally sold at 28 or 30 years purchase. The usual rent\* is 30 s. *per acre* at an average. They begin to sow about the latter end of March, and reap in the months of September and October. The rotation of crops is 3 of grass, 1 of oats, and 1 of barley; then a green crop, followed by a crop of oats, or barley sown with grass seeds. Sometimes, instead of the green crop, the land is summer fallowed, and sown with wheat; after which the ground is manured, and a crop of oats or barley taken. The farmers find the artificial grasses to be very profitable, as they sell very high, either on the ground or when turned into hay. It is very common to receive L. 5 the acre for rye-grass and clover uncut, and 8 d. the stone when cut and dried. The cultivation of turnips, too, amply recompences the  
the

\* The rent of cottages is from 20 s. to 30 s. yearly. A labouring man earns in summer 1 s. *per day*, and in winter 8 d.; tailors have 8 d. *per day* and their victuals; wrights 1 s. 2 d.; masons 2 s.; good labouring men servants have L. 10 *per annum*, and maids L. 4. The average price of meal is 1 s. the peck; of potatoes 7 d.

the husbandman, whether he fells them on the ground, or feeds cattle with them; and he scarcely ever fails to have a good crop of barley after this valuable root. Some of the farmers also raise a few yams, which are good feeding for horses, given raw, for they are not fit for boiling. The potatoes also thrive here pretty well, but they are generally planted too thick in the drills, which are too near each other. The drills should be always so far separate, as to allow the plough to get up amongst them, to lay to or take away the earth, as may seem necessary. The farmers seem averse to sowing of flax, as they think their ground not proper for it; it would surely be a very valuable crop if it could be raised, as there are so many linen manufactures carried on here. But of this the farmers, who understand their business very well, are the best judges. The horses are almost all employed in husbandry. They are generally stout, well made, and of a good size. The black cattle are of a middle size, about that of the Galloway breed. There are a few cows, however, approximating to the large English kind. Many more calves are produced than can be reared. Hence they are fattened and sold to the butchers in Dundee; but it would, perhaps, be a more profitable plan, if the farmers could afford to keep them, till they were 3 or 4 years old, and then sell them to the graziers. There is little or no cheese made in the parish. Much more emolument arises from felling the milk in Dundee.

*Minerals, Fuel, &c.*—There are freestone and slate quarries in the parish. Some years ago there was a mineral spring, which was reckoned medicinal, and frequented by many people, who received much benefit from it; but its source being covered by the building of a bridge, it has disappeared for some time past. The only fuel now made use of here is coals, brought by water from different parts of Fife.

They



They cost at the shore  $6\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* cwt. Here they are free of duty, but this is a burden severely felt by many other parts of the country. It is much against the increase and prosperity of manufactures, and should be removed by the Legislature.

*Advantages, &c.*—This parish being situated near Dundee, finds a ready market for every article the inhabitants have to sell; who can, with equal ease, procure any thing they want from that town. The farmers have plenty of manure from it, and being so near the shore, the lime is pretty reasonable; which, with dung, answers all the purposes of manure. This parish also possesses advantages over several places of the country in point of climate. None of it lying very high, (being mostly dry and sheltered with hedges) they have their harvest more early, and do not run such a risk of losing the crop by shaking winds or early frosts. And in an exigence, plenty of hands can always be got from Dundee to cut down the crops speedily. Many of the people look upon it as a great inconvenience, to pay toll, when they scarcely touch upon the turnpike, and while their own bye-roads are almost impassable; but it is to be hoped this disadvantage will soon be removed.

*Manufactures.*—Dighty, the only river in the parish, drives more machinery for its size than, perhaps, any water in Britain; every fall upon it turns a mill; so that within this parish, though not above 4 miles in length, there are no fewer than 33 mills erected for different purposes. There are several corn mills, barley mills, and mills for washing and cleaning yarn. There is one erecting at present for spinning flax, upon a capital of L. 4000, which, it is supposed, will give bread to a great number of both young and old people, and bring considerable emoluments to the proprietors; one frame is already up, by  
which

which they have had a specimen of the work. They spin with amazing quickness, and make very good yarn, only as it is drawn out dry, it appears rough. This might, perhaps, be obviated, if they could fall upon any method of wetting the flax while it is spinning, which would render the cloth more smooth, and give it a finer appearance. There are nine bleachfields in the parish, three of which are carried on upon a very large scale. They bleach a great quantity of coarse cloths, which they call Soldier's farking and Osnaburgs, most of which they export. This demand for yarn and cloth, affords a profitable employment to the women in this place, who, as they spin with both hands, can easily make 8 d. a-day. There are also upon the water of Dighty, a wauk mill and a snuff mill. In short, a person has only to come to this water to see the happy effects of industry and manufactures, and to what a height they may be carried. While the manufacturer enriches himself, he does a real benefit to society, by employing those hands, who must have either become burdens upon the public by asking charity, or nuisances by worse practices.

*Character.*—The inhabitants of this parish are of an ordinary size, and generally stout and well proportioned. They are humane, industrious, well disposed, and, in general, regular in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion. They enjoy the comforts of life to a considerable degree, and, though they are by no means niggardly, are prudently economical, and contented with their circumstances. The young men do not seem much inclined either to the army or the navy. A few of them, however, have made choice of a seafaring life. Though there are 3 petty public houses in the parish, that sell ale and whisky, yet they have no bad effect upon the morals of the people. There have been

no instances of suicide, nor of any executed or banished for capital crimes, in the remembrance of any now living.

As it may doubtless prove entertaining to many readers, to observe the progress of manners in the space of 30 years, the following comparison is added, between the state of this parish in 1760 and in 1790, in sundry particulars.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the parish in 1760 and  
1790.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| In 1760, Land was rented at 6 s. an acre, on an average only 2 small farms were inclosed.   | In 1790, Land is rented at 30 s. an acre, all inclosed with stone dikes and thorn hedges.   |
| In 1760, No wheat was sown in the parish, except one half acre by the minister, no grass nor turnip seed was sown, and no kail nor potatoes planted in the open fields.       | In 1790, Above 100 acres are sown with wheat; about three fifths of the ground are under grass, turnips, kail, and potatoes.                          |
| In 1760, Land was plowed with oxen: only a few horses were kept to draw the harrow in seed time, and bring in the common harvest. L. 7 was thought a great price for a horse. | In 1790, Oxen are not employed in agriculture. Farmers have their saddle horses, worth from L. 24 to L. 30, and work horses from L. 20 to L. 25 each. |
| In 1760, The wages of men servants, that followed the plough, were L. 3 a-year: of maid servants, L. 1. 10 s.   | In 1790, Men servant's wages are L. 8, some L. 10: maid servant's ditto L. 4.   |
| In 1760, Day labourers were got at 6 d. a-day; tailors at 3 d. wrights at 6 d.; and masons at 10 d. a-day.  | In 1790, Day-labourers receive 1 s.; tailors 8 d. wrights 1 s. 2 d. and masons 2 s. a-day.  |
| In 1760, No English cloth was worn but by the minister and a quaker.  | In 1790, There are few who do not wear English cloth: Several the best superfine; cotton-vests are common.  |

In 1760, Men's stockings in general were what was called plaiding hose, made of white woollen cloth; the women wore coarse plaids: not a cloak, nor bonnet, was worn by any woman in the whole parish.

In 1760, There were only two hats in the parish; the men wore cloth bonnets.

In 1760, There was only one eight day clock in the parish, six watches, and one tea kettle.

In 1760, The people in this parish never visited each other, but at Christmas. The entertainment was broth and beef; the visitors sent to an alehouse for five or six pints of ale, and were merry over it without any ceremony.

In 1760, Beef and mutton were 2 d. *per* lb.; butter 5 d. *per* lb.; cheese 2 s. 6 d. *per* stone, and eggs at 1 d. halfpenny *per* dozen.

In 1760, In this parish there were four meal mills, one washing mill for cleaning yarn, one wauk mill, and one snuff mill.

In 1760, There was one bleachfield in the parish, which employed 10 persons.

In 1760, Children at school had a piece of pease bread in their pockets for dinner.

In 1790, Cotton and thread stockings are worn by both sexes, masters and servants; some have silk ones: the women who wear plaids have them fine, and faced with silk; silk plaids, cloaks and bonnets are very numerous.

In 1790. Few bonnets are worn; the bonnet-maker trade in the next parish is given up.

In 1790, There are 30 clocks, above 100 watches, and at least 160 tea-kettles, there being scarce a family but hath one, and many that have two.

In 1790, People visit each other often; a few neighbours are invited to one house to dinner; six or seven dishes are set on the table, elegantly dressed; after dinner a large bowl of rum punch is drunk; then tea; again another bowl; after that supper, and what they call the grace drink.

In 1790, Beef and mutton are 4 d. *per* lb.; butter 10 d.; cheese 5 s. 4 d. *per* stone, and eggs 6 d. *per* dozen.

In 1790, There are 3 meal mills, 17 washing mills, 5 mills for beating thread and cloth, one wauk mill, one snuff mill, and 5 barley mills.

In 1790, There are 9 bleachfields which employ above 100 persons.

In 1790, Children at school have wheaten bread, sweet milk, butter, cheese, eggs, and sometimes roast meat.

In 1760, Every person in the parish, if in health, attended divine worship on Sunday, which was regularly and religiously observed. There were only 4 Seceders in the parish.

In 1760, Few were guilty of any breach of the 3d commandment. The name of God was revered and held sacred.

In 1790, Much lukewarmness prevails, with regard to religious instruction; and a consequent inattention and indifference, as to worship and ordinances. Sunday is far from being so strictly observed, and the number of Seceders has increased tenfold.

In 1790, The 3d commandment seems to be almost forgotten, and profane swearing abounds greatly.

NUM.

NUMBER XV.

OLD KILPATRICK,

(COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN DAVIDSON,*

*Minister of the Parish.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

KIRK or KIL-PATRICK takes its name from St Patrick, the tutelar faint of Ireland, who, tradition says, was a native of the parish. There are many circumstances favouring this tradition; though Mr O'Halloran, an Irish writer, supposes that he was rather a native of Wales. In a burying place in the church yard, there is a stone of great antiquity, with a figure said to be that of St Patrick upon it; and some go so far as to assert, that he was buried under it. In the river Clyde, opposite to the church, there is a large stone or rock, visible at low water, called St Patrick's stone; and Pennant says, "Ireland will scarce forgive me if I am silent about the birth-place of its tutelar faint. He first drew breath at Kirkpatrick, and derived his name from his father, a noble Roman, (a Patrician), who fled hither in the time of persecution \*."

*Situation,*

\* Pennant's Tour, Vol. II. p. 160. 5th edit.

*Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*—The parish is beautifully situated upon the river Clyde, in the Presbytery of Dumbarton, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The church stands near the turnpike road, 10 miles below Glasgow. Before the disjunction of New Kilpatrick, the parish was of great extent. It is still, however, larger than the ordinary size of parishes in this part of the country, being about 8 miles long, and, in some places, from 3 to 4 miles broad. The soil of the arable part of the parish is generally thin, sandy, or gravellish; but it is in some places clay, and in others clay with a till bottom. The surface of the low part of the district, towards Clyde, is rather plain and level; the north part is hilly and mountainous, and in many places covered with heath and wood.

*Rivers, Hills and Prospects.*—The principal river is the Clyde, and it is the boundary of the parish upon the south. It abounds with salmon, smelts and trouts, which are caught in great plenty; and herrings have been taken, as high up the river as Lord Sempill's house, about a mile above the church. There are several smaller rivulets, which, as will be afterwards shown, have added very much, by the number of works erected upon them, both to the wealth and population of the parish. From the hills above the church, which are continuations of the Grampians, and from one in particular, called Dumbucks, there are excellent distant views, terminated on the one hand by the lofty mountains of Arran, with their heads sometimes above the clouds, and on the other, by the soaring top of Benlomond. From the Chapel hill, the property of the family of Blantyre, and from Dalnotter hill, the property of the Lord President, both situated upon the turnpike road from Glasgow to Dumbarton, within half a mile of the church, the observer is delighted with the variety of the scenery, and richness of the prospect.

spect. The banks of so fine a river as the Clyde, the striking figure of Dumbarton castle, the wonderful division in the ridge of mountains above Bouling Bay, and the numerous woods,—all unite in rendering this prospect perhaps one of the best in Scotland. Mr Farrington, Royal Academician of London, some years ago was employed to take different views upon the rivers Forth and Clyde. He is a man of eminence in his profession, and the view from Dalnotter hill is supposed by many to be the best of the collection.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate is mild and temperate, though, as is the case upon all the west coast of Scotland, very rainy at some seasons of the year. No epidemical disease, however, prevails among the inhabitants. They are generally healthy, and though instances of extreme longevity cannot be produced, yet a man of the name of Daniel Montgomery, belonging to the parish, died within these 2 years at the well authenticated age of 93; and during the incumbency of the present minister, he has known many persons of both sexes live to the age of 85.

*Proprietors and Rents.*—There are about 33 heritors, great and small, in the parish, the principal of whom are Lord Blantyre, the Lord President, Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Mr Hamilton of Barns, Mr Buchanan of Auchintorly, Mr Stirling of Law, Miss Buchanan of Auchintoshan, and Mr Dreghorn of Ruchill. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4441 : 13 : 8 Scotch. The real rent is about L. 5000 Sterling. Almost all the arable lands in the parish are inclosed and subdivided. The average rent of arable land, in the low part of the parish, is from 20 s. to 30 s. *per* acre.

*Cultivation.*



*Cultivation.*—When the present incumbent became minister of the parish in the 1745, the state of agriculture was most wretched. The rent of arable land, even in the low part of the parish, at an average, did not exceed from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. an acre. The distinction of outfield and infield, or croft land, universally prevailed. There were few or no inclosures, and the tenants were miserably accommodated with houses. The croft land, though every year ploughed, produced little crop. There were no carts in the parish. The difference is now wonderful. In few parts of the country are the farmers in a more prosperous situation, the rents better paid, or the best mode of cultivating the soil better understood. In general, the tenants observe strictly the following method: They never have above a third of their farm in tillage at a time. They take but two crops of grain and one of hay from that third, and it is never broke up again till it remains in pasture grass 3 or 4 years. To this is to be ascribed the flourishing state of the tenants\*. Their grounds being thus treated, and well dunged

\* This change took place about 20 years ago. The example was set by some of the principal heritors, who were at great pains and expence to introduce it, and it is now becoming general over the parish. The method pursued with so much effect by the heritors, was either to summer-fallow and improve their estates themselves, and then let them out in lease; or, where they were so large as not to admit of this, to let out the parts which they had not summer-fallowed, allowing the tenant a deduction of a year's rent for each inclosure he should summer-fallow, till the whole farm was once gone over, at the average rent of the farm *per* acre, provided he gave the inclosure 4 ploughings, and as many harrowings, laid on a certain quantity of manure, and made and formed new streight ridges of a proper breadth. By these means, the tenants were induced to alter their former system of cultivation, and they continue in the new course, the beneficial consequences of which are abundantly felt. They bring dung from Port-Glasgow and Greenock by water carriage, and they cart their lime from a lime-work near the east boundary of the parish. They generally use two horse ploughs, though, in some places, where the soil is

dunged and limed, produce excellent crops, and their pasture grafs is remarkably rich and nourishing. The distinction of outfield and infield is totally suppressed. Carts are univerfally used. Convenient and central farm houfes are built upon almost every farm, many of them slated.

*Produce and Cattle.*—The crops raised are corn, bear, barley, wheat, peafe and potatoes; and there are ready markets for all these, either at the different villages and works in the parish, or at Glasgow. The horses and black cattle in this district are of the best kinds. Several of the tenants rear them. On the grounds of the upper part of the parish, great numbers of cattle and sheep are pastured. The hills of Cockney always produce remarkably fat cattle and sheep. Better seldom appear in the Glasgow or Paisley markets.

*Manufactures.*—This parish, from its local advantages, (having a great many falls of water, issuing from the high grounds,) from its good roads, and its vicinity to Glasgow, is full of different manufactories, all of which are in a thriving situation, and employ at high wages a very great number of people \*. To give the reader an idea of the num-

VOL. V.

G g

ber

is clay, 3 and 4 horses are thought necessary. As all personal services are justly considered as destructive, they have been necessarily abolished in a part of the country where agriculture has arrived to so high a pitch of perfection. Thirlage, however, and mill services, still remain. But these, it is hoped, will soon also be suppressed. Even statute-labour, known in almost every county in Scotland, is here converted into money.

\* The prices of labour and provisions, in this and in all the parishes adjoining to Glasgow, are regulated in a great measure by Glasgow. As these have been detailed by some of the clergy in the neighbourhood, it is thought unnecessary to repeat the particulars here. In general, it may only be observed, that they bear a proportion to one another, and that all ranks and degrees of persons in the parish are now much more wealthy, and in a much more prosperous situation, in every respect, than their ancestors.

ber and the kind of manufactories, a list of them is subjoined.

Two printfields of great extent, having 595 persons belonging to the works; but as 280 of these do not reside in the parish, they are not comprehended in the number of inhabitants after mentioned :

Number of persons employed,	-	-	595
One bleachfield, which employs	-	-	50
One paper manufactory employs,	-	-	84
One smith and iron manufactory employs	-	-	273
One woollen manufactory, (and which was the first of the kind in Scotland,) employs	-	-	321
			<hr/>
Total number of persons employed,	-	-	1323
Deduct for non-residenters,	-	-	280
			<hr/>
Total residenters employed,	-	-	1043

One of the printfields pays a weekly duty of near L. 200 Sterling to Government, and is supposed to be the fourth or fifth largest in Scotland. The works and machinery of the wool mill are complete for making and finishing 1000 yards of cloth a-day, which requires 1200 lb. of wool.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Thirty years ago there were no passable roads for carriages in the parish, owing to the want of bridges, for, in floods, the rivulets were unfordable. Even the great road from Glasgow to Dumbarton, which communicates with the West Highlands, was at times in the like situation. About 20 years ago, the Duke of Argyle, Lord Frederick Campbell, and Sir Archibald Edmonstone, in the most patriotic manner, undertook to make the part of the high road, from the East confines of the parish, to the town of Dumbarton, a stretch of 8 miles, and to take their chance of the tolls for indemnification, which, at the time, was a  
very

very uncertain security. The road was accordingly soon made in the completest manner; and these gentlemen have now the satisfaction of having conferred a lasting advantage on the country; while, from the increase of the manufactures of Glasgow, and the number of travellers, the turnpike duties have repaid their advance of money. As these duties are now perfectly sufficient to support the road, independent of the statute money, the latter is applied to the other roads in the parish, which, owing to the good management of a residing heritor, who takes charge of the application, are all likewise in good order. The statute money of the parish amounts to L. 63 : 6 : 8 Sterling yearly, and is upon the increase. It is raised by an assessment of 18 s. Sterling upon each L. 100 Scotch of valued rent, and of 2 s. Sterling upon each householder. Good roads should be the first object of improvement in every country. It is to their being so good in this parish, that a great part of its prosperity may be ascribed.

*Ferry.*—The ferry of Erskine, almost opposite to the church, is the communication for foot passengers, horses, and carriages, across the river in this part of the country. The quays have lately been removed to more proper situations, and it is now a very convenient and useful ferry.

*Church.*—The church is a very ancient building, and was formerly a branch of the abbacy of Paisley. The stipend is 89 bolls 2 firlots 1 peck 2 lippies of meal, and L. 45, 13 s. 4 d. Sterling of money, including L. 4 : 3 : 4 Sterling for furnishing communion elements. The manse is pleasant and commodious; and, since an exchange with the family of Blantyre, who very liberally made a considerable addition to the glebe, it is now a very good one, consisting  
of

of 9 acres of excellent arable land. Lord Blantyre is patron.

*Population.*—From an accurate account taken in summer 1792, the number of souls, including those employed at the public works, but exclusive of the 280 non-resident persons, are,

Males above 8 years of age,	-	-	961
Males below 8 years of age,	-	-	265
Females above 8 years of age,	-	-	933
Females below 8 years of age,	-	-	293

In whole, 2452

In Dr Webster's report in 1755, this parish is

said to have contained 1281 souls,	-	1281
------------------------------------	---	------

Increase, 1171

This important increase of inhabitants is, in a great measure to be attributed to the number of works carried on in the parish, and the great influx of people which they have occasioned; for the number of inhabitants, independent of the works, has not increased in a great degree, the number now being only 1409 souls, whereas, in 1755, there were 1281; an increase of only 128.

*Poor.*—The poor in the parish are few, considering the number of inhabitants, and even these consist of old or diseased people who are unable to work; for it has been observed, that none but the truly necessitous ever desire to receive public charity. In this part of the country, the people have a proper pride, and are naturally averse at coming (as they call it) upon the poor's box. There have never, therefore, been any assessments for the poor. They are supplied out of the collections at the church door, and from the

the flock of the poor's fund; but, owing to the few residing heritors in the parish, and a degree of fanaticism among some of the lower sort of people, which takes them to other meetings than the Established Church, the collection at the church door is less now than formerly, and it is to be feared that an assessment may soon be necessary, which, wherever it takes place, is attended with many pernicious consequences\*.

*Minerals.*—In several parts of the parish, there are coal and lime pits which have been wrought, and at present there is one coal-work going. Freestone in great quantities is to be found in many places, some of it of an excellent quality for building. The stones used in building the sea-locks at Bowling Bay, and many of the bridges upon the west end of the canal, were taken from the estate of Miss Buchanan of Auchintoshan, and are considered to be of the best kind of freestone.

*Antiquities.*—The Roman wall, (or, as it is commonly called, *Grabam's dike*, from a tradition, that a Scottish warrior of that name first broke over it,) between the Forth and Clyde, which was first marked out by Agricola, and completed by Antoninus Pius, and which terminated  
at

\* Under this article, the minister is happy in having an opportunity of doing justice to the proprietors of the numerous works. While they have added, in a great degree, to the wealth and population of the parish, he can safely say, that in no instance have they increased the number of poor. Their poor are uniformly supported from funds established among themselves. At several of the works, weekly collections are made by the workmen, which are accumulated into a capital, and, by the judicious management of the proprietors, they are thereby enabled, not only to maintain their poor, but also to employ surgeons and schoolmasters for the benefit of the workmen and their families;—a line of conduct highly proper, and meritorious, and well worthy the imitation of every master manufacturer.

at Dungalas \*, is still discernible in many parts of the parish; as are also several Roman camps in the neighbourhood of it, particularly one upon a hill at Duntocher †.—At Sandyford, near the village of Kilpatrick, before the road was repaired, and before a bridge for horses and carriages was built over the burn there, a large stone, supposed to have been an obelisk, intended to commemorate some remarkable event, had been taken from near the Roman wall, where, it is said, it had stood, and was used by the country people as a bridge for foot passengers. It is now in the possession of

\* Dungalas was once a site of the Romans, and, in Oliver Cromwell's time, a castle and a place of some strength, but was blown up by the treachery of an English boy. The ruins of some of the buildings are still to be seen. It was formerly the property of the Colquhouns of Lufs, who likewise enjoyed the whole tract of country from that to Dumbarton, and it at present retains their name, being called the Barony of Colquhoun. This castle, however, and the barony have, for many years, been in the possession of Sir Archibald Edmonstone's family, and his vassals. But though the family of Lufs have now no property in the parish, they have still very large estates in the county. The massacre of the Colquhouns by the Macgregors in 1602, is an instance, among many, of the barbarous state of this country at that time, and occasioned acts of Parliament prohibiting any person from using the name of Macgregor. These acts are now very properly repealed.

*Bent. III. 362* † In 1775, a country man in digging a trench upon the declivity of this hill, turned up several very uncommon tiles. The tiles are of 7 different sizes, the smallest being 7 inches, and the largest 21 inches square. They are from 2 to 3 inches in thickness, of a reddish colour, and in a condition perfectly sound. The lesser ones composed several rows of pillars, which formed a labyrinth of passages of about 18 inches square, and the larger tiles being laid over the whole, formed a floor; above which, when it was discovered, there lay about two feet deep of earth. The building was surrounded by a wall of hewn stone. Various conjectures have been made with regard to the nature of these remains of antiquity. The most probable is, that it was used as a *sudorium*, or hot bath, for the use of the neighbouring garrison.—Near this, there is a Roman bridge, over the Duntocher burn; which, though it has been often repaired, still retains strong marks of antiquity.

of Mr Donald of Mountblow, and resembles the ancient obelisks near Brechin, called the Danish stones of Aberlemno.

*Character.*—The people of this parish may be said to answer the general character of the Scotch, for they are sober, honest, and industrious. The demand for workmen and artificers is so great, that there is not an idle person to be seen. At the wool mill and printfields, great numbers of young persons are constantly employed, many of them below 8 years of age, who earn from 4 d. to 8 d. a-day. And, as there are schoolmasters in the vicinity of all these works, the youth, when not engaged at their employments, go to school. In this way their business and education are united, while their morals are not endangered by idleness. —All the young people of the parish dress well. The men wear hats and coats of English cloth. The young women put on silk and calico gowns, and black caps and cloaks. They meet together occasionally, and make merry. Their chief amusement is dancing, and upon these occasions there is a pleasing cheerfulness and innocence among them.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Inoculation is now generally practised in the parish, which is a happy circumstance, both on account of the population, and the difference it occasions in the look of the people. The practice is not, however, of above 30 years standing. The minister was among the first who began it. He tried it with success in his own family about the year 1761-2, since which the custom has gradually crept in, and is now universal. An instance of the proper and rational conduct of a tenant in the parish, towards his family, may be here mentioned. He has had 12 children, and he inoculated every one of them. The extension of the great canal to Bowling Bay, where it joins  
the



the Clyde, must be attended with very advantageous consequences to the nation. The number of vessels that sail upon it, loaded with all kinds of merchandise, and some of them from sea to sea, is daily increasing.—The history of the Bargarran witches, in the neighbouring parish of Erskine, is well known to the curious. That this parish, in the dark ages, partook of the same frenzy, and that innocent persons were sacrificed at the shrine of cruelty, bigotry, and superstition, cannot be concealed. As late as the end of the last century, a woman was burnt for witchcraft at Sandysford, near the village, and the bones of the unfortunate victim were lately found at the place. While we review with pity and regret, the deplorable situation of human nature at that time, we feel a sensible pleasure in contemplating the change that has already taken place, which is indeed highly increased, by indulging the fond hope, that the period is fast approaching, when all kinds of superstition and bigotry, will for ever be banished, from the face of the earth.

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF CAMBUSLANG,

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. Dr JAMES MEEK.**Origin of the Name.*

CAMBUSLANG was anciently called *Drumsfargard*\*, from a barony, which seems to have comprehended the greatest part of the parish. For several centuries, however, it has been known by its present name; which it appears to have received, from the place where the kirk has stood for time immemorial, and from the saint to whom it was dedicated. *Cam-eas*, now changed into *Camus* or *Cambus*, in the Gaelic language, signifies a crooked torrent or rivulet; and *Lan* or *Launus*, now changed into *lang*, was the name of a saint, famous for being the founder of many monasteries †. The present kirk, which occupies the very spot where the old kirk stood, is situated on the bank of a remarkably rapid and crooked rivulet; and as most of the kirks were anciently put under the protection of some tutelar saint, it is highly probable, that

VOL. V.

H h

the

\* Ind. to Anderf. Diplom. Scotiæ.

† *Centum solus Monasteriorum Fundator existisse fertur.* Ush. Antiq. Brit. Eccl. p. 472.

the first kirk erected here was dedicated to St Lan or Launus.

*Situation and Extent.*—Cambullang is situated in the county of Lanark, the Presbytery of Hamilton, and the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is something less than 3 miles square, and may be stated as containing about 8 square miles in superficial extent. The kirk, which is 5 miles S. E. from Glasgow, and 6 miles W. from Hamilton, is nearer to the N. W. corner, than to any other boundary of the parish.

*Surface and Soil.*—Though beautifully diversified with hill and dale, there are no high grounds in the parish, except Dichmount and Turnlea hills, which form a ridge about half a mile broad, and extending near two miles from E. to W. From this ridge, which is nearer the southern than the northern side of the parish, the ground declines gently, and with many beautiful swellings, to Clyde on the N. and to Calder on the S. and E. In so considerable a tract of country, there are different kinds of soil. Upon the ridge just now mentioned, and the adjacent fields, the soil is thin and gravelly. Along the banks of Clyde, it is partly a light loam, and partly a light sand; but by far the most common, is a clayey soil, with a till bottom.

*Rivers, &c.*—Clyde, which bounds this parish for near 3 miles, is from 200 to 250 feet broad. It is a fine stream, when so full of water as to cover the whole channel. Some high spring tides come up to the confines of this parish; but in general they do not reach them by more than a mile. Clyde overflows its banks, at an average, between three and four times yearly. In floods, the  
water

water seldom rises more than 17 feet above the bed of the river; but in the flood of 12th March 1782, the greatest remembered, or on record, it rose 20 feet above the bed of the river, and 1 foot 6 inches higher than a memorable flood on the 24th September 1712. There is only one haugh, consisting of 18 acres of very rich land, liable to be overflowed. Calder water, which is the boundary of this parish, for upwards of 4 miles, is rapid and shallow; the channel about 30 feet broad; but, in its ordinary state, never covered with water. There are several rivulets in the parish; but none of these, except one, so considerable as to merit particular notice. The principal branch of this one rises on the confines of the parish of Carmannock, and after a course of more than 3 miles, first E. and then N. falls into Clyde, about 3 quarters of a mile below the kirk. It has different names at different places; but is here called the Kirk Burn; having lost its ancient name, which was probably *Cam-eas*, or the crooked burn. This rivulet, for about a mile before it falls into Clyde, is uncommonly wild and romantic. Agreeably to its ancient name, it makes several turnings and windings. In some places, its banks are open and covered with trees and bushes; but for the most part, it is confined by bold and perpendicular rocks, from 50 to 100 feet high.

*Prospects.*—This parish is distinguished by its beautiful scenery, and from the top of Dichmount, there is certainly one of the finest inland prospects in Scotland. From Stirling castle, and from Moncreiff's hill, there are prospects in some respects superior; but neither of them comprehends such an extent of cultivated country, and so great a variety of hills and valleys. The highest part of Dichmount is only about 700 feet above the level of the sea; but even this small elevation gives it a commanding view,

view, bounded in every direction, by distant high grounds, hills and mountains. Parts of 13 or 14 counties are visible. Placed on this eminence, the spectator beholds to the S. E. Tinto, the Tweeddale and Pentland hills; and to the N. W. Ben Lomond, many of the hills of Cowal and Breadalbane; and among these last, the conical summit of Ben Loi, which is partly covered with snow, from the end of October to the beginning of July. But the beauties of this prospect lie nearer at hand, and more immediately in view, comprehending the strath of Clyde, from Lanark on the one hand, to Dumbarton on the other. Amidst the amazing variety of objects, which here present themselves to the eye of the spectator, the most striking are, the windings of the river, and its banks adorned with villages, towns, and gentlemens seats; the extensive woods and plantations about Hamilton; the magnificent ruins of Bothwell castle; but above all, the large and populous city of Glasgow, with its numerous spires and venerable cathedral.

*Air and Climate.*—The air varies considerably here, as it does in every other parish, the surface of which is unequal. It is often mild and temperate on the banks of Clyde and Calder, while it is sharp and cold in the internal and more elevated parts of the parish. The air, however, is favourable to health; and this part of the country is not subject to any peculiar epidemical distempers. Though there be no instances of extraordinary longevity; yet there are several persons now alive, who are considerably above 80; and during the incumbency of the present minister, some have survived 90. As a proof of the mildness of the climate, it may be observed, that no snow has fallen in the lower part of the parish for many years past, which exceeded 6 inches in depth on plain ground; and, unless when it is  
blown

blown into hollow and sheltered places, it feldom lies more than 4 or 5 days. The quantity of rain which falls at Glafgow, on an average of more than 20 years, is found to be almoſt 31 inches. The quantity which falls here is probably ſomewhat leſs\*.

*State*

\* The juſteſt notion of the climate of this diſtrict, may, doubtleſs, be formed from the following abridgment of a register, kept for 7 years, (from 1ſt January 1785 to 31ſt December 1791,) at Cambuſlang manſe, which is ſituated about 200 feet above the level of the ſea.

Mths.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Winds.				Weather.	
	M.	H.	L.	M.	H.	L.	N. E.	S. E.	S. W.	N. W.	Dry.	Wet.
Jan.	29.55	30.47	28.20	38.2	52	3	7	6	15	3	14	17
Feb.	29.59	30.65	28.48	38.9	55	13	7	4	15	2	14	14
Mar.	29.69	30.50	28.60	39.7	58	18	9	5	12	5	17	14
April	29.72	30.30	28.70	46.2	70	27	12	2	12	4	17	13
May	29.74	30.28	28.82	52.3	80	36	10	3	15	3	17	14
June	29.70	30.20	29.06	58.4	85	38	10	2	15	3	18	12
July	29.53	30.22	28.78	59.8	77	47	5	3	18	5	12	19
Aug.	29.61	30.26	28.90	59.3	77	45	7	3	18	3	14	17
Sept.	29.59	30.24	28.44	54.5	77	36	7	4	16	3	15	15
Oct.	29.51	30.48	28.38	47.8	65	26	10	4	14	3	14	17
Nov.	29.48	30.24	28.48	41.3	56	21	11	6	10	3	18	12
Dec.	29.39	30.14	28.50	37.6	54	3	9	5	14	3	15	16
	29.59	30.65	28.20	47.9	85	3	8.6	3.9	14.5	3.3	15.4	15

The three firſt columns, contain the mean and extreme height of the Barometer; the three next, the mean and extreme height of the Thermometer; the four following, the average number of days, in which the wind blew from the N. E. the S. E. the S. W. and the N. W. quarters; the two laſt, the average

*State of Property.*—On the supposition, that the parish contains 8 square miles in superficial extent, there are, on the whole, about 4032 Scotch acres; and allowing 232 acres for braes, planting, roads, and waste ground, there remain 3800 acres of arable land. The rate of arable land is from 10 s. to 40 s. *per* acre; but the average rate of land does not exceed 15 s. *per* acre. Now 3800 acres, at 15 s. *per* acre, amount to L. 2850, which is about the present rental. The property of the parish is divided among 11 heritors. His Grace the Duke of Hamilton, to whom about two thirds of it belongs, may be considered as the only non-residing heritor. Three others, indeed, dwell within the confines of neighbouring parishes; but are so very near this parish, that they farm part of their own lands in it. Below is a state of the number of acres belonging to the several heritors, with their valued rent, and also their real rent, estimating the land which the residing heritors possess, at the ordinary rate of such land in the neighbourhood.

#### Estates.

range number of dry and wet days. The Barometer was every day marked at 8 o'clock in the morning, and 10 o'clock at night; and the Thermometer, not only at these times, but also at 2 o'clock afternoon; so that columns first and fourth, express the mean height between these extremes of the day.

Estates.	Acres.	Val. rent Scotch money.	Real rent English money.
1	2510	L. 2218 15 8	L. 1668 0 0
2	630	523 5 0	670 0 0
3	300	263 0 0	170 0 0
4	160	133 6 8	100 0 0
5	40	68 0 0	70 0 0
6	40	_____	60 0 0
7	40	_____	50 0 0
8	40	_____	30 0 0
9	20	19 0 0	16 0 0
10	16	_____	10 0 0
11	4	10 10 0	6 0 0
	3800	L. 3235 17 4	L. 2850 0 0

To the above sum of L. 2850 must be added the produce of a considerable colliery belonging to the Duke of Hamilton, amounting to L. 250 a-year, which makes the present yearly rental L. 3100. About 330 acres are in the possession of the 10 heritors above mentioned. All the rest of the parish is in the hands of 50 tenants, who may be classed differently, according to their respective rents. There is one tenant who pays above L. 600, two who pay above L. 100, ten who pay L. 50 and upwards, 19 who pay L. 20 and upwards, and 18 who pay less than L. 20.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—Almost the whole parish is arable, and the greatest part of it as well cultivated as any lands in the neighbourhood. It yields all the ordinary kinds of grain produced in Scotland. Oats, pease, beans, and barley, have been raised from time immemorial; but since the middle of this century, wheat, potatoes, rye-grass, and clover have been introduced, and it is chiefly by the produce of these last, that many of the farmers now pay their rents. The number of acres in the different kinds of grain, &c. with



with the average value of each, at a moderate rate, is as follows :

Grain, &c.	Acres.	Produce per acre.	Price per boll.	Total value.
Oats,	950	5 bolls	15 s.	L. 3562 10 0
Wheat,	180	8 —	20 s.	1440 0 0
Pease & beans,	190	4 —	16 s.	608 0 0
Barley,	160	5 —	16 s.	640 0 0
Potatoes,	70	20 —	9 s. 6 d.	665 0 0
Hay,	400	132 stone.	5 d. p.st.	1100 0 0
Pasture,	1720	12 s. 6 d. per acre,		1075 0 0
Fallow,	130			0 0 0
	<hr/>			<hr/>
	3800			L. 9090 10 0

About 40 years ago, oats were almost the only grain sown here, the quantity of black stuff and barley being inconsiderable; and though there be still a greater number of acres in oats than in all other kinds of grain, yet that number is daily diminishing. All the oats raised at present are not sufficient to supply the demands of the parish. The practice of sowing wheat was introduced about the year 1760, and since that time, the quantity sown has been gradually increasing. It is now the favourite crop with those farmers, who possess that half of the parish which lies next to Clyde. Wheat is sown on all kinds of soil; but the clayey, which is indeed the most common, is found to answer best, because the crop suffers least by the frosty nights and sunshine days in the spring. The greatest part of the wheat sown here is on summer fallow, and after 4 or 5 repeated plowings. It is doing the farmers no more than justice to say, that they spare neither labour nor expence to raise great crops of wheat; and, from the yearly increasing quantity, it may be presumed, they find that their labour and expence turn out to a good account. Glasgow dung is the principal manure employed for raising a wheat crop.

A

A cart of dung in Glasgow, by the time it is carried to the dunghill without the town, costs 1 s. 6 d.; but this cart is so large, that two of them make three of those that are brought to the country, which therefore cost only 1 s. each. The expence of carriage depends on the distance; but the carriage of one cart to the distance of 6 miles, cannot be estimated at less than 1 s. 6 d. and it requires 45 carts to dung an acre of land for wheat. Besides dung, lime is also commonly employed. The lime is brought from the neighbouring parish of Kilbride. When carried to the distance of 4 miles, it costs about 10 s. the chalder, and 4 chalders, are necessary for an acre of wheat land. The whole expence, therefore, of preparing and sowing an acre of land with wheat, at the distance of 6 miles from Glasgow, and 4 miles from Kilbride, supposing every article to be paid in money, may be estimated thus :

5 plowings at 8 s.	-		L. 2	0	0
45 carts dung at 2 s. 6 d.	-		5	12	6
4 chalders lime at 10 s.	-		2	0	0
$\frac{1}{2}$ boll seed wheat at 20 s.	-		0	10	0
2 years rent at 15 s.	-		1	10	0
			11 12 6		

It may well be supposed, that the farmer's labour and expence will seldom be paid by the first crop; but if it be nearly paid, he must be a considerable gainer; for land, which has been treated in this manner, will be in such order, that he will be amply repaid by the succeeding crops. The practice of planting potatoes in the fields, was introduced about the same time with that of sowing wheat, and is now common over all the parish. Though potatoes cost a great deal of work, yet they not only make a plentiful return, but also leave the ground in such a condition, that the farmers sow it with wheat, and have good crops, but

not equal to those after summer fallow. All the wheat, except what is preserved for seed, and, at least, a third of the potatoes, are sold in Glasgow.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—In this parish there are about 70 ploughs, mostly of the old Scotch fashion, but not so heavy and clumsy as formerly. Every considerable farmer has at least two ploughs, a larger and a less. The larger is drawn by 3 horses, and always employed where one plowing only is necessary, and also for the first plowings, where more are necessary. The less is drawn by 2 horses, and employed in all subsequent plowings after the first or second. Many of the farmers are of opinion, that Small's chain plough, drawn by 2 horses, does not turn their wet stiff clayey soil effectually. It is used, however, by some farmers, in light dry land, and, by others, in giving the last plowings to summer fallow, and both find it to answer abundantly well. There are two corn mills, one on the Calder, and another on the Clyde; the latter is capable of grinding 30 or 40 bolls a-day, and it is almost constantly employed, in winter and spring, by the farmers in the neighbourhood, and in summer and autumn by the dealers in foreign grain, in and about Glasgow. In some seasons 2000 bolls of foreign oats have been milled here, and in every season above 1000. Here thirlage still continues.

*Effects of connection with Glasgow.*—This and the neighbouring parishes depend, in a great measure, on Glasgow; which is the market where they sell every thing they can spare, and buy every thing they want. The state of manufactures and commerce in that city extends its influence over all the adjacent country. Glasgow is happily situated for carrying on trade with America; and ever  
since

since the Union of the two kingdoms, has availed itself, in some degree, of this advantage. Its manufactures and commerce had been advancing gradually, though slowly, from that period to the middle of the century, when it first began to make a rapid progress. This was chiefly owing to the great increase of the tobacco trade, which had hitherto been much obstructed by the dealers in that commodity, residing in London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Whitehaven. These dealers, after all their attempts to destroy this trade had proved abortive, were obliged to abandon them, and from that time, which was towards the middle of the century, the tobacco trade of Glasgow was carried on with equal vigour and success. In consequence of this lucrative trade, the city and its inhabitants, in a short time, assumed a different appearance. A new and better stile was introduced in building, and in furniture, as well as in dress and living. These improvements in Glasgow soon began to shew themselves in the surrounding country. An increasing demand for the articles which land produces, and a consequent rise of prices in the market, gave life and vigour to the exertions of the farmer. Growing wealth begat new wants, and a taste for imitation began to operate. The farmer, as well as the merchant, came by degrees to relish the conveniencies, and even the luxuries of life; a remarkable change took place in his lodging, clothing, and manner of living. The difference in the state of the country, in the value of land and mode of cultivation, in the price of provisions and the wages of labour, in food and cloathing, between the years 1750 and 1790, deserves to be particularly recorded.

1750.

The land rent of the parish probably did not exceed  
L. 1000,

1790.

The land rent of the parish rose to L. 2850. No grassums  
ex.

1750.

L. 1000, including double interest for grassums, or sums of money paid by the tenants, when they entered into the possession of their farms.

Every farm was distinguished into croft and field land. The former, which seldom exceeded a fifth of the whole, lay near the farm house, was frequently manured and constantly in tillage. The latter, which lay at a distance from the farm house, was never manured, but sometimes in tillage, though oftener in pasture.

Most of the farms run-rig, that is, the lands of one farmer intermixed with those of another.

No inclosures, but a very few about gentlemens houses.

Every field contained a number of balks, or waste spaces between the ridges, full of stones and bushes.

The ridges crooked, very high in the middle, and often unequal in breadth.

The tenants bound to lead their landlord's coals, and to give him some day's work

1790.

expected by the landlord, or paid by the tenant.

The distinction between croft and field land, entirely abolished, and every part of the farm treated in the same manner.

All the farms laid out in such a manner, as to be most convenient for the farmer.

All the farms divided, and some of them subdivided with hawthorn hedges.

No balks now to be seen; the whole field cultivated.

The ridges straight, reduced to a proper swell in the middle, and to a regular breadth.

These services wholly abolished, and the tenants allowed to bestow all their attention

1750.

work in ſeed time and har-  
veſt.

The roads narrow and  
rough, ſcarcely paſſable with  
carts in ſummer, and in win-  
ter ſo deep as to be hardly  
paſſable with horſes.

A few ſmall carts, the  
wheels entirely of wood.

No wheat, no hay made  
of clover and rye-graſs,  
no potatoes planted in the  
fields.

No wheat bread, no fu-  
gar and tea uſed, but by  
people of wealth and faſhion,  
and not much by them.

Little butcher meat con-  
ſumed; no fat cattle killed,  
except by gentlemen, and  
ſome of the greateſt far-  
mers.

Beef and mutton ſold at  
Martinmas from 2 s. 6 d. to  
3 s. *per* ſtone\*.

Butter ſold from 3 d. to  
4 d. *per* lb. Cheeſe from 1 d.  
to

1790.

tention and induſtry upon  
their own farms.

Good roads, and paſſable  
at all times, both for carts and  
horſes.

About 170 large carts,  
the wheels bound with ſtrong  
iron rings, and ſome of them  
with iron axles.

About 650 acres in theſe  
crops.

Wheat bread uſed by all,  
ſugar and tea occaſionally by  
many.

A great deal of butcher-  
meat conſumed; fat cattle  
killed by all farmers, tradef-  
men and manufacturers; up-  
wards of 100 head of fat cattle  
killed yearly.

Ditto from 5 s. to 7 s. *per*  
ſtone.

Butter ſold from 6 d. to  
12 d. *per* lb. Cheeſe from 3 d.  
to

\* In this diſtrict, beef and mutton, butter and cheeſe are ſold by Tſon weight, conſiſting of 16 lb. in the ſtone, and 22 ounce in the lb.; but oatmeal is ſold by Troy weight, conſiſting of 16 lb. in the ſtone, and 16 ounces in the lb.

1750.	1790.
to 2 d. <i>per</i> lb. Eggs from 1 d. to 2 d. <i>per</i> dozen.	to 6 d. <i>per</i> lb. Eggs from 5 d. to 10 d. <i>per</i> dozen.
Value of oat-meal, according to the fiars of the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, 11 s. 8 d. <i>per</i> boll, or 8½ d. <i>per</i> peck.	Value of oat-meal, according to ditto, 16 s. 8 d. <i>per</i> boll, or 12½ d. <i>per</i> peck.
Yearly average of oat-meal, according to the fiars of the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, from 1711 to 1750 inclusive, nearly 10 s. 2 d. ½ d. <i>per</i> boll, or 7⅞ d. <i>per</i> peck.	Yearly average of oat-meal, according to ditto, from 1751 to 1790 inclusive, nearly 14 s. 10 ½ d. <i>per</i> boll, or 11 ½ d. <i>per</i> peck *.
Price	Ditto,

\* These articles, relating to the value of oat-meal, are taken from the records of the University of Glasgow. It merits particular notice, that though oat-meal has risen in price a good deal, yet it has not risen in proportion to other articles of provision. This, it is apprehended, may be ascribed to the following causes: 1 The price of oat-meal has been prevented from rising as high as it would naturally do, by acts of Parliament, allowing the importation of oats and oat-meal from other countries, when they exceed a certain rate. 2. The demand for oat-meal is lessened by the increasing demand for other kinds of provision; such as butcher meat, flour, various kinds of vegetables and roots, but especially potatoes, which may be said, without exaggeration, to supply the inhabitants of this country with food for three or four months annually. It may be thought, that the price of oat-meal is hindered from rising in proportion to other kinds of provision, by the greater quantity of oats now raised, in consequence of the late improvements in agriculture. But, whether the quantity of oats now raised, be much greater than formerly, may be questioned. It is certain, that in consequence of a better system of agriculture, much heavier crops of oats are raised upon the land in tillage; but it is equally certain, that there is much less land in tillage, and that there are many thousands of acres now in wheat, potatoes, hay and pasture, which were formerly in oats. Some good judges are of opinion, that the quantity of oats now raised, is not much greater than it was 40 years ago; and that the principal cause of the rise in the price of oat-meal since that time, is the very great quantity of oats now consumed in feeding horses.

1750.	1790.
Price of a draught horse from L. 5 to L. 10.	Ditto, from L. 15, to L. 25.
A milk-cow, from L. 2 to L. 4.	Ditto, from L. 5 to L. 9.
A sheep, from 3 s. to 6 s.	Ditto, from 9 s. to 18 s.
A hen, from 6 d. to 9 d.	Ditto, from 1 s. to 2 s.
Yearly wages of a man-servant, besides his maintenance, from L. 3 to L. 4.	Ditto, from L. 8, to L. 10.
Yearly wages of a maid-servant, besides her maintenance, from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2.	Ditto, from L. 4, to L. 5.
Wages of a day-labourer, from 6 d. to 7 d.	Ditto, from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d.
A man in harvest, <i>per day</i> 8 d.	Ditto, 1 s. 6 d.
A woman in harvest, <i>per day</i> , 6 d.	Ditto, 1 s.
A mason, <i>per day</i> , from 8 d. to 10 d.	Ditto, from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s.
A wright, <i>per day</i> , from 7 d. to 9 d.	Ditto, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.
A tailor, besides meat, <i>per day</i> , 4 d.	Ditto, from 10 d. to 1 s.
When a farmer's family went to the kirk, or to a market, he and his sons wore suits of home made cloth, plaiden hose, and blue or black bonnets; his wife and daughters were dressed in gowns of their own spinning, cloth cloaks and hoods,	When a farmer's family went to the kirk, or to a market, he and his sons wore suits of English cloth, worsted or cotton stockings and hats; his wife and daughters were dressed in printed callico or silk gowns, scarlet or silk cloaks, silk bonnets, white thread
worsted	thread



1750.	1790.
worsted stockings and leather shoes.	thread stockings, and cloth shoes.

*Colliery, &c.*—The greatest part of the inhabitants are farmers and day-labourers; but besides ordinary tradesmen and artificers, such as masons, wrights, &c. there are a good number of colliers, weavers, and cotton spinners. The coal-work has been of long standing, and is said to be the oldest in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. There are about 100 coal-pits which have been wrought. If each of these, at an average, be supposed to have lasted only 4 years, the coal-work must have been wrought for 4 centuries, and this carries it back, till within little more than a century, of the first knowledge of coal as a fuel in Scotland\*. The field, in which the coals are found, lies on the south side of Clyde, and may be about a mile square. It has a general slope towards the river, with considerable swellings here and there; and, in several places, is cut and broken by rivulets. In this field there are known to be 5 strata, or seams of coal, of different thicknesses, and at different distances from one another. These seams are always nearly parallel to one another, but not parallel to the surface of the earth, having their dip or declination towards Clyde. At the river they lie many feet deep, but rise gradually till they crop out, or reach the surface within less than a mile and an half of it. The nearer you approach to Clyde, the dip is so much the less,

\* The earliest evidence of the use of coal as a fuel in Scotland, is said to be a charter of William de Obervill, in which he grants liberty to the abbot and convent of Dunfermline, to open a coal-pit upon his lands of Petyncriff. This charter is dated the day before the feast of St Ambrose, in March 1291. Davidson's Accounts of the Chamb. of Scotl. Appen. No. 1.

less, but is one foot in 4 or 5, at a distance from it\*. One of the most important points to be attended to, in working coal, is to do it in such a manner as to keep clear of water; and this till lately was done by a level, which conducted the water from the different coal pits to Clyde. But the coal could not be wrought dry in this way, whenever it was lower than the bed of the river. This disadvantage induced the present possessor to erect a steam engine in 1787 by means of which, the coal can be wrought dry at a much greater depth than formerly. The colliery gives employment to 62 men, young and old. Of these 42 are employed below ground, and 20 above. As the work of the former is laborious, hazardous and disagreeable, so their profit is great in proportion to that of other workmen. They are furnished with a house and coal for fuel, and have 6 d. for every cart. An ordinary collier can easily dig 4 carts, for which he receives 2 s. 2 d. a-day; and, if he works every day, 13 s. a-week. Those who work above ground, are also furnished with houses and coal for fuel, and have from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. a-day. The wages of colliers and other incidental expences may amount to L. 2000 *per annum*. About 600 carts of coals are put out weekly; and consequently above 30,000 yearly. The ancient and present price of coals cannot be compared with accuracy, on account of the difference in weight and measure. About

VOL. V.

K k

1750,

\* The colliers call the declination of a seam downwards the *dip* of the coal, and its inclination upwards, the *crop* of the coal. It is a curious fact and well-worthy of notice, that not only all the strata of coal, but also all the strata of freestone, have their dip towards Clyde, on both sides of it, that is, the coal and stone on the south side of the river, have their declination to the north; and, on the contrary, the coal and stone on the north side of the river, have their declination to the south. How this fact is to be accounted for, it is not easy to say.

1750, the cart sold on the coal-hill at 9d. If it then weighed 900 weight, the price of coals was just 1d. *per* 100 weight. At present, the cart sells on the coal-hill at 2s. 3d. It is said to weigh 1200 weight, consequently the price of coals is 2½d. *per* 100 weight, which is more than double their price 40 years ago.

*Weavers.*—The weaving of holland, or fine linen, was begun here about 60 years ago, and gave employment to a few looms. The weavers bought the yarn, wove it into cloth, bleached the cloth and carried it to market; so that they engrossed several businesses, which are now almost entirely separate. Towards the middle of the century, the weaving of lawns and cambricks came in place of holland, or fine linen. The yarn was now furnished by dealers in that commodity in Glasgow, to whom the weavers returned it in webs, for which they received payment according to their quantity and quality. In 1783, the weaving of muslin was introduced, which, for several years past, has given employment to all the weavers here, except a few who make webs for their country neighbours. About the same time, the art of weaving received a considerable improvement, by the introduction of the fly-shuttle, which is now generally used. It enables the weaver to do more work, with greater ease to himself, and which is of still higher importance, the erect position of his body is favourable to health. An ordinary weaver can easily make 10s. a-week. In this parish there are 120 weavers, including journeymen and apprentices, who may be supposed to gain about L. 2800 *per annum*.

*Cotton Work.*—In 1787, a cotton work was established at a village called Flemington. At present, it consists of 2 carding machines and 17 jennies, including 1 for roving and  
2 for

2 for flabbing. Each of the jennies spins 84 threads at once. The carding machines are driven by water, which is collected from many different springs, into a reservoir at the foot of Dichmount hill, and conveyed from thence to the cotton work, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile distant, partly by an open runner, and partly by wooden pipes. An ordinary cotton spinner can gain about 10 s. a week. This work gives employment to 50 people old and young, and occasions a circulation of about L. 700 a-year.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Roads have of late become objects of great consequence, and much labour and expence are now bestowed upon them. The most public road is that from Hamilton to Glasgow, which passes through the parish from east to west. This road was originally made by the statute work; but was some years ago improved, and has since been kept in repair, by a toll levied at a turnpike near Glasgow. There are two other roads, much frequented by coal, lime, and ironstone carts, which cross the parish from south to north. Both of these were made, and are still supported by the statute work, which is converted into money, at the rate of 15 s. for each plough, and 2 s. for each householder. The only bridges within the parish are on rivulets, but there are two bridges on Calder water. One of these, probably the oldest in this district, is called Prior bridge, either because it was built at the expence, or for the convenience, of the priory in Blantyre.

*Church, &c.*—The minister's living consists of 118 bolls 12 pecks of oat-meal, L. 30 of money, 100 merks for communion elements, a manse, and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres of glebe; which, in whole, valuing the oat-meal at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  d. the peck, is worth L. 140 *per annum*. The kirk, which is a neat plain edifice, was built in 1743, and the manse in 1756; but

but both have been repaired since, and are at present in good order. His Grace the Duke of Hamilton is patron and titular.

*School.*—For several years past, the school has been in a flourishing condition. The schoolmaster has 200 merks of salary, with a house and garden. The rate of education *per* quarter is, English 1 s. 6 d.; writing 2 s.; arithmetic 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin 3 s. The number of scholars within the parish is from 60 to 70; and of boarders, at L. 20 *per annum*, from 10 to 15. The schoolmaster's living, exclusive of the profit arising from his boarders, is about L. 40 yearly.

*Poor's Funds.*—There are in this parish two considerable mortifications in favour of the poor. In 1615, James Marquis of Hamilton, in conjunction with Mr John Howison, minister of Cambullang, mortified a sum of money, the yearly interest of which was directed to be employed for maintaining in an hospital at Hamilton, 8 poor men, 2 of whom were always to belong to the parish of Cambullang. Gabriel Hamilton, of Westburn, in 1700, mortified 600 merks, the interest of which was to be laid out in buying shoes and hose to the indigent. Besides these mortifications, the poor's stock amounts to L. 350; the interest of this stock, with the ordinary collection on Sundays, and mortcloth dues, which may be about L. 15, yield a sum sufficient without any assessment, to supply the wants of the poor.

*Population.*—The state of population for the last 46 years, may be exactly ascertained by the report made to Dr Webster in 1755, and by three separate lists taken by the present incumbent:

Years

Years & months	Perſons	Males	Females	Families	Average of families.
1755.	934				
1775, Jan.	1096	547	549	238	$4\frac{3}{5}$ nearly.
1783, May.	1088	529	559	236	$4\frac{3}{5}$ nearly.
1791, April.	1288	657	631	280	$4\frac{2}{5}$ exactly.

The population, which had been rather retrograde than even ſtationary, between January 1775 and May 1783, has, ſince the latter period, received an augmentation of 44 families, and 200 perſons; and this augmentation has ariſen,— 1ſt, from the increaſe of weavers, ſince the weaving of muſlin was introduced; 2dly, from the eſtabliſhment of the cotton-work at Flemington, which has brought 12 new families to the pariſh; and 3dly, from the increaſe of colliers, ſince the erection of the ſteam engine.

Population Table, April 1791.

	Perſons.		Perſons.
Inhabitants as above,	1288	Day-labourers,	27
Aged below 10,	337	Men-ſervants,	65
— between 10 & 20,	240	Women-ſervants,	67
— — — 20 & 50,	517	Colliers, including coal-	
— — — 50 & 70,	154	hill men,	62
— above 70,	40	Weavers, including jour-	
Born in the Highlands		neymen, &c.	120
and Western Iſles,		Cotton ſpinners, inclu-	
about -	40	ding boys & girls,	50
Married couples,	193	Maſons and wrights,	
Widowers, 14	} 69	including journeymen	
Widows, 55		and apprentices,	14
Unmarried household-		Smiths, including ditto,	8
ers, male & female,	44	Shoemakers,	6
Diffenters from the E-		Tailors,	4
ſtabliſhed Church,		Millers, including ſer-	
about -	60	vants,	4
	Reſiding		Retailers

Persons.		Persons.	
Residing in 6 villages, being mostly col- liers, weavers, and cotton spinners, 677		Retailers of British spi- rits, -	12
		Grocers, -	3
Residing in the country, being mostly farm- ers and cottagers, 611		Carters, -	7
		Gardeners, -	3
		Plasterers .	1
Residing heritors, 7		Thatchers -	1
Feuers and sub-feuers, 24		Surgeon -	1
Farmers, whose rent is above L. 20, 32		Midwives, -	2
—— below L. 20, 18		Schoolmaster, -	1
		Minister, -	1

*Houses.*—For several years since 1767, when the Duke of Hamilton let his lands in larger farms than formerly, there were a considerable number of houses uninhabited; and some few of them allowed to go to ruin. But all of them that remain are now repaired, and full of people. Since 1783, 16 good new houses have been built, in which about 24 families are well lodged. Seven years ago, there were only 8 families living in a paltry village near the kirk; but at present, there are 3 times that number.

*Horses, Black Cattle and Sheep.*—In this district, there are 180 horses, all of which, a very few excepted, are employed in the cultivation of land. These horses are mostly raised in the shires of Renfrew and Ayr, and bought by the farmers, in the markets of Glasgow and Rutherglen. The number of black cattle is 630, of which about 300 are milk cows. The rest are partly black cattle, intended for the market; but chiefly young cattle reared by the farmers, for preserving their stock. The yearly profit

profit of milk cows, at an average, may be about L. 3. The farmers find it more advantageous to make their milk into butter than into cheese; of which last, they make no more than what supplies their own families. Almost all the butter and churned milk they can spare, is sold in Glasgow. The sheep are 410 in number, and all of the Scotch breed, except about 120. Most of these last, are large English sheep, which the farmers pasture along with their cows. A public spirited gentleman has lately got a score of the Cheviot breed, which are smaller in size, but finer in wool, and promise to do well in this part of the country.

*Minerals.*—Besides plenty of coal and some ironstone, there are vast beds of freestone over the whole parish; except on the ridge formed by Dichmount and Turnlea hills, which consist of whin, and furnish abundance of good materials for making roads. On the banks of the kirk-burn, there is a species of freestone of excellent quality, white, hard and close of the grain; consequently capable of being made very smooth and beautiful. This species is held in high estimation, and sometimes carried to a great distance. A stratum of marble, from 6 to 12 inches thick, is known to extend over a considerable part of the parish. Like the coal, it has its dip towards Clyde; and wherever coal-pits have been sunk, it has been found at the depth of from 180 to 200 feet. At such a depth, it could not be easily come at; but there is a place on the kirk-burn where it has been dug at different times. It is of a dark brown colour, beautifully variegated with white, and takes a good polish. Of this marble, there are several slabs in the palace of Hamilton, a chimney-piece in the  
College



College Library at Glasgow, and three pair of solid *jamb*s in Mr Dundas's new built house at Duddingtoun \*.

*Familier*

\* Dichmount hill, \* seems to have been anciently a place of strength or defence. There are appearances of a sort of earthen rampart, which encompassed it a little below the summit; and on the very summit, there are still plain vestiges of buildings. The ruins of these buildings were considerable about 10 years ago; but since that time, the stones and rubbish have been removed for making dikes, and repairing roads. The present possessor, when digging a few years ago on the summit of the hill, discovered the foundation of a circular building, about 24 feet in diameter. The stones had been carefully joined together, but no signs of mortar could be observed. They were freestones; and must have been carried with much labour, from a distance, as the stones, which are found in great abundance upon the hill, are all whin. From the figure of this building, and the place where it stood, it is conjectured to have been a *turris speculatoria*, or watch-tower; and for such an edifice, a better situation could not have been chosen. From it one could see and be seen almost in all directions, more than 15 miles; and in some, more than 50. About a mile E. from the kirk, there is a small ridge terminated on the W. by a circular mount, level on the top, about 20 feet in height, and 140 feet in diameter. This mount, from its regularity, is plainly the work of art, and resembles those artificial mounts, on which the Britons and Saxons built their fortresses †. When the south of Scotland was possessed by the Britons and Saxons, it is probable that one of their fortresses might stand on this mount; but however this may be, it is certain, that the castle of Drumsfargard ‡ stood upon it. A great barony was annexed to this castle; which must have been a place of considerable strength, as it was surrounded by wet and marshy ground that

\* *Dichmount*, or rather *Dichmound*, in the Saxon or Teutonic language, signifies a rampart of protection or of peace.

† The Britons and Saxons built their fortresses on artificial mounts. The Normans built on the firm and natural soil or rock; but often made use of these mounts, which they found to have been the site of a British or Saxon castle. *Pen. Tour in Wales*, 1770, p. 252.

‡ *Drumsfargard*, or *Druim-searg-aird*, in Gaelic, signifies the ridge of dry or porched height; a name which is descriptive, either of the particular spot where the castle stood, or of a long ridge, at a little distance from it.

*Families.*—There are few considerable estates in this parish, and all of them have probably at different periods, been detached from the barony of Drumfargard. On the S. side of Dichmount, stands Latrick, which, about the beginning of the last century, was the seat of a Sir John Hamilton, whose family is extinct, and the estate is now in the possession of the Duke of Hamilton. On the N. side of the same hill, stands the house of Gilbertfield, which, from an inscription above one of the windows, appears to have been built in 1607. This place was long the residence of a family of the name of Cunningham. About the beginning of this century, the estate was purchased by the laird of Westburn. Lieutenant William Hamilton, the friend and poetical correspondent of Allan Ramsay, lived many years, first at Gilbertfield, and then at Latrick, where he died, 24th May 1751, at an advanced age. The most considerable residing family at present, is that of John Hamilton, Esq; of Westburn. This gentleman is descended

VOL. V.

L 1

from

that could easily be flooded, except on the E. where it is said to have been defended by a draw-bridge. The situation was doubtless well chosen for a place of security in disorderly times; and, though only about 60 or 70 feet higher than the adjacent ground, the prospect from it would always be extensive and commanding, but is now highly rich and beautiful. About 20 years ago, there were some remains of this ancient castle; but now no vestige of it is to be seen. The stones of it were employed in building the farm houses, called *Hall-side*, because they stood in the near neighbourhood of the great hall. The tenant, who is now in possession of it, has dug from its ruins many carts of stones, some of which were hewn and had iron crooks in them, upon which doors had been hung. Among the rubbish human bones have been found, once a pewter plate, and on many occasions pieces of coin, but of what reign is not known.—The barony of Drumfargard has been the property successively of several families of great name; the Oliphants, the Murrays, the Douglasses, and the Hamiltons. At present it makes a part of the entailed estate of Hamilton.

from the Hamiltons of Torrence; and these from the Hamiltons of Raploch, who were one of the oldest branches of the house of Hamilton\*. His ancestors took up their residence at Westburn near two centuries ago.

*Religious Houses.*—No vestige now remains of any of those religious houses which were in this parish, during the times of Popery. There was, however, on the banks of the Kirk Burn, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile below the kirk, a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to which belonged 4 acres of land, which still retain the name of *Chapel*. There was also an hospital 2 miles E. from the kirk, to which about 130 acres of land, called *Spittal* and *Spittal-bill*, seem to have been annexed. But the persons by whom, and the time when these religious houses were founded, are equally unknown. The parish of Cambuslang itself, was first a rectory, and then a prebend. John Cameron, of the family of Locheil, was rector when he was promoted to the Bishoprick of Glasgow. In 1429, Bishop Cameron, at the desire of the patron, Archibald Earl of Douglas, made the parish of Cambuslang a prebend; and at the same time, appointed the prebendary and his successors, perpetual chancellors of the cathedral at Glasgow. In consequence of this appointment, the prebendary was obliged to reside at Glasgow, and to serve the cure at Cambuslang by a vicar, who had for his support the vicarage teind, now valued at 100 merks, with a house and 6 acres of land, known to this day by the name of *Vicar-land* †.

\* *Crawf. Peer. p. 188.*—*Nisb. Her. vol. 2. p. 11.*

† In the statistical account of this parish, it will doubtless be expected, that some mention should be made of those remarkable religious phenomena,

mena, which took place under Mr M'Culloch's ministry, commonly called "Cambuslang conversions." In treating of this subject, it will be proper to give a brief historical view, first of the facts, and then of the opinions entertained concerning them\*.

The kirk of Cambuslang being small and in bad repair, the minister, when the weather was favourable, used to preach in a tent, erected close by a rivulet, at the foot of a bank or brae near the kirk, which is still called "the preaching or conversion brae." No place could be better formed by the hand of nature for field preaching; as the brae rises gradually from the place where the tent stood, in the form of an amphitheatre, so that every person in the audience could see and hear the preacher distinctly. Mr M'Culloch, for about a year before this work began, had preached on the doctrine of regeneration; and upon the Sabbath evenings after sermon, frequently read to his hearers, missives, attestations and journals, he had received from his correspondents, giving an account of conversions, which had taken place in different parts of the world, especially in New England under Mr Whitefield's ministry. These missives, attestations and journals, were at the same time published weekly at Glasgow, in halfpenny pamphlets; and had an extensive circulation in this and the neighbouring parishes. The fruits of these instructions were a more than ordinary

\* *In drawing up this account, besides the session-records, the following pamphlets, which were all published in 1742, have been consulted:*  
 1. "An account of some remarkable events at Cambuslang, a village about 4 miles from Glasgow, as related by different parties." 2. "An answer to ditto," dated "Gorbals, 29th March." 3. "A short narrative of the extraordinary work of the Spirit of God at Cambuslang, with attestations of ministers and preachers," dated, "Cambuslang, 8th May." 4. "Act of the Associate Presbytery anent a fast," dated, "Dunfermline, 15th July." 5. "Divine influence, the true spring of the extraordinary work at Cambuslang: by A. Webster, minister at Edinburgh," dated, "30th August." 6. "A faithful narrative of the extraordinary work at Killyth, with a preface, by James Robe, minister there; 29th July." 7. "A review of Mr Robe's preface, &c. by James Fisher, minister of the Associate Congregation at Glasgow; October." 8. "Two letters by Mr Robe to Mr Fisher; December." 9. "Divine influence, the true spring, &c. edit. 2. with a preface and additions, in answer to Mr Fisher's review, by A. Webster, minister at Edinburgh; December." *Other pamphlets published since 1742, have also been consulted.*

dinary concern about religion. Towards the end of January 1742, two persons, Ingram More, a shoemaker, and Robert Bowman, a weaver, went through the parish, and got about 90 heads of families to subscribe a petition, which was presented to the minister, desiring that he would give them a weekly lecture. This petition the minister readily granted, and Thursday was fixed upon as the most convenient day of the week for that purpose. On the two first Thursdays after the lecture was over, some persons came to the minister's house, much concerned about their spiritual interest; but the number was not great. On Monday 15th February, and the two following days, all the fellowship meetings in the parish convened in one body in the minister's house, and were employed for many hours in fervent prayer for the success of the gospel, and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their bounds, as in other places abroad: The next day, being Thursday 18th February, nothing remarkable happened during the lecture, except that the hearers were apparently all attention: but when the minister in his last prayer expressed himself thus: "Lord who hath believed our report; and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? where are the fruits of my poor labours among this people?" several persons in the congregation cried out publicly, and about 50 men and women came to the minister's house, expressing strong convictions of sin, and alarming fears of punishment. After this period, so many people from the neighbourhood resorted to Cambuslang, that the minister thought himself obliged to provide them with daily sermons or exhortations, and actually did so for 7 or 8 months. The way in which the converts were affected, for it seems they were all affected much in the same way, though in very different degrees, is thus described. They were seized all at once, commonly by something said in the sermons or prayers, with the most dreadful apprehensions concerning the state of their souls, insomuch that many of them could not abstain from crying out, in the most public and frightful manner, "bewailing their lost and undone condition by nature; calling themselves enemies to God, and despisers of precious Christ; declaring that they were unworthy to live on the face of the earth; that they saw the mouth of hell open to receive them, and that they heard the shrieks of the damned;" but the universal cry was, "*what shall we do to be saved?*" The agony under which they laboured, was expressed not only by words, but also by violent agitations of body; by clapping their hands and beating their breasts; by shaking and trembling; by faintings and convulsions; and sometimes by excessive bleeding at the nose. While they were in this distress, the minister often called out to them, not to stifle or smother their convictions, but to encourage them; and,

after

after sermon was ended, he retired with them to the manse, and frequently spent the best part of the night with them in exhortations and prayers. Next day before sermon began, they were brought out, commonly by More and Bowman, and having napkins tied round their heads, were placed all together on seats before the tent, where they remained sobbing, weeping and often crying aloud, till the service was over. Some of those who fell under conviction were never converted; but most of those who fell under it were converted in a few days, and sometimes in a few hours. In most cases their conversion was as sudden and unexpected as their conviction. They were raised all at once from the lowest depth of sorrow and distress, to the highest pitch of joy and happiness; crying out with triumph and exultation, "that they had overcome the wicked one; that they had gotten hold of Christ, and would never let him go; that the black cloud, which had hitherto concealed him from their view, was now dispelled; and that they saw him with a pen in his hand blotting out their sins." Under these delightful impressions, some began to pray and exhort publicly; and others desired the congregation to join with them in singing a particular psalm, which they said God had commanded them to sing. From the time of their conviction to their conversion, many had no appetite for food, or inclination to sleep, and all complained of the severity of their sufferings during that interval\*. This singular work soon became public, made a great noise, and brought vast numbers of people from all quarters. The minister, who at first was assisted chiefly by preachers in the neighbourhood, soon got abundance of assistance from his brethren; some of whom came at his desire, and others of their own accord. Among those who resorted to Cambuslang on this occasion, there were many of the most popular ministers in Scotland; such as, Messrs. Willison of Dundee, Webster of Edinburgh, M<sup>r</sup> Knight of Irvine, M<sup>r</sup> Laurin of Glasgow, Currie of Kinglassie, Bonner of Torphichen, Robe of Kilfyth, &c. Mr Whitefield, who had been in England for several months, did not arrive till June. The sacrament was given twice in the space of 5 weeks, viz. on 11th July and 15th August. Immense multitudes of hearers and spectators were present at both, but especially at the last. On the Sunday, besides the tent at the foot of the brae above described, where the sacrament was dispensed, other two tents were erected. At each of these there was a very great congregation.

\* Some women who had born children, declared, that, while they were under conviction, they endured more bodily pain than they had ever done in child-bearing.

tion. Mr Whitefield, who was accustomed to numerous audiences, supposed, that at the three tents, there were upwards of 30,000 people; a greater number probably than was ever seen on any other sacramental occasion. Most of the above mentioned ministers and others were assistants at this solemnity. Four preached on the fast-day, 4 on Saturday, probably 14 or 15 on Sunday, and 5 on Monday. There were 25 tables, about 120 at each, in all 3000 communicants. A great many of these came from Glasgow and the neighbourhood, about 200 from Edinburgh, about 200 from Kilmarnock, about 200 from Irvine and Stewarton, and some from England and Ireland. "But," says Mr M'Culloch, "what was most remarkable was the spiritual glory of this solemnity; I mean the gracious and sensible presence of God. Not a few were awakened to a sense of sin, and their lost and perishing condition without a Saviour; others had their bands loosed, and were brought into the marvellous liberty of the sons of God. Some declared that they would not for a world have been absent from this solemnity. Others cried, now let thy servants depart in peace from this place, since our eyes have seen thy salvation here." The Cambuslang work continued for about 6 months, that is, from the 18th February till the second communion. Few or none were convicted or converted after this last period. The daily preachings and exhortations, except the weekly lecture, ceased. Public worship, however, was kept in the open fields till the month of November, when the inclemency of the weather rendered it necessary to repair to the kirk. The number of persons convicted and converted during this period, cannot be ascertained with accuracy. The former are said to have been by far the greatest number. In a letter of Mr M'Culloch's to Mr Robe, dated 30th April 1751, after acknowledging and bewailing the many backsliders, he asserts, that he had then in his possession a list of about 400 awakened at Cambuslang in 1742, who from that time to the time of their death, or the date of his letter, had been enabled to behave in a good measure as became the gospel. About 70 of these 400 were or had been inhabitants of Cambuslang.

After the 1742, some day about the 18th of February was observed yearly, in commemoration of this extraordinary work. "It was observed," as Mr M'Culloch expresses it, in the papers which he read from the pulpit on these occasions, "partly as a day of thanksgiving for the remarkable season of grace to many in the British colonies, and particularly in this small corner, in the years 1741 and 1742; and partly as a day of humiliation and fasting for misimprovement of mercies; and especially for the backslidings of many, who then showed a more  
" than

“ than ordinary concern about their souls, but have since fallen away, “ and turned as bad, or worse than they were before.” Since Mr M’Culloch’s death, some day about the same time, and for the same purpose, is still observed by the fellowship meetings in the parish.

To what cause this memorable work ought to be ascribed, was a question which occasioned much debate and great diversity of opinion. Some ascribed it to the influence of the Holy Spirit; others to the influence of the devil; and others to the influence of fear and hope, of sympathy and example, aided by peculiar circumstances. Those who entertained the two first opinions, agreed in thinking that this work ought to be ascribed to supernatural agency, but differed widely as to the agent to whom it ought to be attributed; the one considering the agent as the best of beings and the other as the worst. Those who entertained the last opinion, thought this work might be accounted for by natural causes, and consequently that there was no occasion for having recourse to supernatural agency.

1. That this work ought to be ascribed to the influence of the Holy Spirit, was the opinion of many of those, who are commonly known by the name of the high party in the Church of Scotland, and especially of those clergy, who attended and assisted at Cambuslang, while it was going on. The fruits of it in the hearts and lives of men were such, according to them, as might be expected from the renewing and sanctifying influences of the Holy Ghost. Zeal for the glory of God and the honour of the Redeemer, shone with peculiar lustre. The lives of the profane were reformed. Relative duties, where they had been neglected, were conscientiously discharged. Harmony and peace succeeded strife and contention. Families, once the synagogues of Satan, became temples where God was worshipped. Persons of all ranks formed themselves into societies, which met frequently for prayer and experimental conversation. With regard to the external effects, by which this work manifested itself on the bodies of men, they acknowledge them to be uncommon, but not singular. The scriptures furnish instances of similar effects of an awakened conscience: such as St Paul at his conversion; the jailor at Philippi; and Felix who trembled as St Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Instances of similar effects have happened at the conversion of many particular persons; nay of great numbers at once even in our own country; such as in several parishes of Cunningham about 1625, and in the parish of Shotts in 1630.

2. It



2. It is well known that the High Party of the Church of Scotland, and the Seceders, are of the same sentiments, as to doctrine, discipline and church government; and that whatever was thought defective or blameable in the Established Church by the latter, was also thought defective or blameable in it by the former; though not in so high a degree, as to justify a separation or secession. It might therefore have been expected, that the Seceders would have entertained the same opinion with the high party concerning the work at Cambuslang; and this would probably have been the case, if this work had happened a few years earlier, and while they were members of the Established Church. But circumstances were now greatly altered. The Seceders had left the Established Church, and formed themselves into a separate community under the name of the Associate Presbytery; they had published a testimony against the corruptions and defections of the Established Church; disowning her authority, and declaring her judicatories to be ill constituted and unlawful courts. They could not therefore believe, that God would countenance so corrupt a church, as they had represented it, by such a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But as the work at Cambuslang was extraordinary in itself, and as they could not believe it proceeded from the Holy Spirit; so they concluded it must proceed from the devil. These sentiments they openly avowed, by preaching and writing against it; and especially by an act, dated Dunfermline, 15th July 1742, appointing the 4th of August following to be observed in all their congregations, as a day of fasting and humiliation; one of the principal grounds of which was, "The delusions of Satan, attending the present awful work upon the bodies of men, going on at Cambuslang." When this act was published, their ancient friends, who, for many years successively, had exerted their whole influence to bring them back to the bosom of the church, were filled with indignation, and even with horror. To ascribe the Cambuslang work to the influence of the devil, appeared to them, a sin little inferior in guilt, to that of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Mr Robe affirmed, "that this act of the Associate Presbytery was the most heaven-daring paper, which had been published by any set of men in Britain for a century past." A paper war ensued, in which the parties treated each other with abundance of freedom; but at the same time, with many professions of Christian love and charity.

3. That the work at Cambuslang ought to be ascribed neither to the influence of the Holy Spirit, nor to the influence of the devil, but to the influence of fear and hope, of sympathy and example, aided by peculiar circumstances,

circumstances, was the general opinion of those, who are known in the Church of Scotland, by the name of the Moderate party. The only extraordinary circumstance relating to this work, is the external effects on the bodies of men, by which it manifested itself; and these, they thought, might be sufficiently explained by the operation of natural causes. The soul and body, they observed, are so intimately connected, that they mutually sympathise with each other, and whatever gives pleasure or pain to the one, gives likewise pleasure or pain to the other. All the passions of the mind, especially those which are of a violent nature, discover themselves by some corresponding outward expression. When an event, whether joyful or sorrowful, is communicated in such an interesting manner as to affect our minds strongly, it will also affect our bodies in proportion. As this is the case with regard to such of men's concerns as are present and temporal, is it not reasonable that it should also be the case with regard to such of them as are future and eternal? If they be deeply affected by the preaching of the word. If, on the one hand, their fears be alarmed by the threatenings of the law, and the dread of everlasting punishment; or if, on the other hand, while in this wretched situation, their hopes be elevated by the assurance of pardon, and the prospect of eternal happiness; is it not natural that the feelings of their minds should discover themselves both by their words and actions? The sermons preached at Cambuslang, during this memorable work, it is alledged, were addressed, not to the understandings of the hearers, but to their imaginations and passions; and especially to the passions of fear and hope. " Their lost and undone condition by nature was represented in a manner the most awful and alarming. They were brought to Mount Sinai, where thunder roars, and lightnings flash. They were encouraged by the precious promises of the gospel, by the consolations which are in Jesus, and the wonders of his grace. They were conducted to Mount Calvary, and exhorted to behold, with the eye of faith, the healing virtues, which flowed from the wounds of their Saviour, expiring upon the cross." The natural tendency and effects of these instructions were aided and strengthened by peculiar circumstances. The opinions of the Methodists, respecting the sensible operations of the Spirit of God in the work of regeneration; the sudden and almost instantaneous conversions, which took place under Mr Whitefield's ministry, were well known at Cambuslang. Mr M'Culloch was a great admirer of Mr Whitefield, and employed him repeatedly to preach in his pulpit. He frequently discoursed on the wonderful conversions in New England; and was at great pains to communicate to his people, the papers which gave an account of them. In this task, he was successfully

afflicted by More and Bowman \*. They themselves had been converted by Mr Whitefield ; and were ever ready to describe the manner in which they had been affected, to those who were disposed to listen to them.

That this preparation gave rise to the work at Cambuslang, they asserted, was manifest ; because the persons convicted and converted there, were affected in the same manner, and expressed themselves in the same words, with those who were convicted and converted in New England : A fact which can no otherwise be accounted for, than by supposing, that the manner and language of the latter were perfectly familiar to the former. When this work was once begun, they maintained, that the effects of sympathy and example sufficiently explain its future progress. Every day's experience, shows, that we are disposed to imitate the actions of others, and that we are naturally and as it were mechanically moved by seeing them, either in the depth of distress, or in the height of exultation. The operation of these principles was visible almost in every instance. Whenever any one was affected, many others were affected in a similar manner. Whenever any one cried aloud, either through excessive grief or joy, but especially the former, many others cried aloud likewise, using the same words, or words of the same meaning. When all these concurring circumstances were taken into consideration, they thought it by no means surprising, that there should be some hundreds of converts among the many thousands who attended at Cambuslang, during the course of seven or eight months.

*\* The following fact, related by the one party, and not contradicted by the other, is thought to place the character of More and Bowman in a very suspicious light. When any person was affected in time of sermon, they were always at hand to give their assistance. One day, when a woman, who had fainted, began to revive, Bowman says to her, " Christ is just a-coming ; He is on the way ; He will not tarry : " and a little after More added, " Do you hear the sound of his chariot wheels ? " Upon which the woman got up, in a transport of joy, crying, " He is come ! I have got him, and will not let him go ! "*

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF SLAINS,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER FARQUHAR.*

---

*Name, Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

THE name of this parish, to which that of Forvie is now united, has been SLAINS, as far back as can be traced. Slains is said to signify *health* in the Gaelic language; and indeed the singular healthiness of the inhabitants in general, renders it not improbable, that the place has at first been so denominated on account of the excellence of its climate\*. It belongs to the presbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. It is between 5 and 6 English miles in length, about 3 in breadth, and in form a sort of triangle †.

*River,*

\* Two women died here lately, the one in the 101st year of her age, the other in the 102d. There is one alive just now, in her 91st year, enjoying all her senses; only she is a little dull in hearing, but healthy and humorous. There are several others a very little younger.

† There is an accurate map of Captain Gordon's estate in his own possession, and also one of the rest of the parish, in the hands of Mr John Wauchope, writer to the Signet, or of the heirs of Major Callander of Crighton.

*River, Lake, and Mineral Waters.*—The river Ythan divides this parish from Foveran, and a part of Logie-Buchan. Ships frequently come in at the foot of it, and it is very convenient for exporting what meal, bear, oats and pease, the farmers can spare, to Aberdeen and Peterhead. The river abounds with salmon, flounders, mussels, and cockles; small pearls, and some years ago, even large ones, were found in it. There is a very large lake, called the *Loch of Slains*, in extent about 54 acres, and about 25 feet deep, in general, and in one place about 50; it abounds with pike, perch, and eel, and is encompassed with pleasant green banks, which, if planted, would make a truly picturesque appearance. There are several good mineral springs. They are mostly chalybeate. Some of them have been useful to persons afflicted with gravelish and bilious complaints.

*Sea-coast and Fish.*—The extent of sea-coast is between 5 and 6 English miles; two-thirds of which are rocky\*, the other sandy†. The rocks on this coast are generally

\* The remains of the old castle of Slains, anciently the seat of the Errol family, is situated in a strong peninsulated rock, the foot of which is washed by the sea. It was demolished in 1594, by James VI. on the rebellion of the Earl of Huntly. There is another piece of antiquity on the estate of Captain Gordon, viz. the ruins of a very ancient Roman Catholic chapel, called St Adamannan's Chapel; it has one arched Gothic window entire, and must be of very great antiquity, as St Adamannan was a follower of St Columba, whose life he wrote, and who was born in Ireland in the year 559, and died 1st November 615; so that if this chapel was not founded during his life, it is highly probable it was built not long after. It is situated in a hollow at the side of a small rivulet. The proprietor intends making a small plantation around it, which will add both to its beauty and preservation.

† No kelp has been made here for upwards of 20 years, there being now no ware. This cannot well be accounted for, but by supposing it owing

generally high, and indented in a strange manner, with immense and horrible chasms. The fish caught on this coast, are sold at the following prices, upon an average, viz. ling, 1 s. 2 d.; cod, 6 d.; hollyback, (in this country called *turbot*,) 1 s.; scate, 6 d.; turbot, (in this country called the *Rodden fleuck*,) 6 d.; sole and silver fleucks, 6 d.; each; plaife and flounder ditto, 1½ d. *per dozen*; whittings, 1 d.; seaths, 2 d.; sea dogs, 5 d.; haddocks from 1 d. to 2 s. *per dozen*; mackerels and herrings, if sought for, but only plentiful occasionally; partans and lobsters about Lammas, but few, and seldom sought at any other time. From the end of January, to the middle of April, haddocks, cod, and ling, are thin; through the rest of the year good, and commonly plentiful, though the last 4 years they were uncommonly scarce, but the haddocks unusually large. Scate, and all kinds of flounders, are always in season. Dog-fish only yield oil worth the trouble from the middle of July to the end of August. All the above, except [the partans and lobsters, are taken with lines, baited with mussels and *lug*, which are found in the bed of the Ythan at low tides, for nearly two English miles above the sea\*. The women are generally employed

owing to large beds of sand, which have encroached from the sea, along the shore where the ware grew. The tides flow from N. E. to S. W. and ebb from S. W. to N. E. on the shore, exactly 6 miles out; and upwards they flow more southerly.

\* It is only about 15 years since the fishermen paid any thing for this bait. At first they paid only 5 s. yearly, each; now every man that goes to sea pays 20 s. a-year for *liberty to gather it*. As they are allowed to gather only on their own side of the water, and mussels within their reach are sometimes scarce, they are, on such occasions, obliged to buy them at 6 d. the peck, from the tacksmen of the water. They have also about 3 English miles to carry them on their backs in fish creels; which makes their bait dear enough, though they paid nothing

employed to gather the bait. About the one half of the fish caught here is carried in boats to Leith, Dundee, or Perth; the other half is carried by the women to Aberdeen, Old Meldrum, or the country, or sold at home. For three years past, the tackfman of the water of Ythan has bargained for all the ling and cod caught here, from 1st October to 1st February, at 6 d. each ling, and 4 d. each cod, above 18 inches long, and at 2 d. between 18 and 12 inches each. At this season they cannot get their fish dried, and so cannot carry them to a better market, not being in the practice of barrelling them up themselves, as he does.

*Caves.*—Along the shore there are many caves. They seem to be natural; some of them are very large; one of them is nearly 200 yards long, and at some parts about 20 feet high. Another of these caves, well known by the name of the *Dropping Cave*, or the *White Cave of Slains*, is visited by most strangers, who come near the place, it being justly esteemed a rarity. The sea reaches to the mouth of it, at high water. Upon entering, one sees the water oozing through a spongy porous rock on the top and sides, which falls down in pretty large drops, like a very moderate shower; these drops are of a remarkable petrifying nature. They gradually and imperceptibly, (not instantaneously, as has been said,) line the cave with curious stalactitical incrustations, in very different and strange forms; a great deal of these incrustations was taken out some years ago, and turned into lime. It is again petrified all over,  
and

thing to the tackfman, whose demands are annually increasing. The proprietor of the fish towns, not adverting perhaps to these consequences, exchanged his chance of the fishing for the whole profits of the ferry-boat, on that part of the water, with the proprietor on the opposite side, about 15 years ago.

and has the look of white marble. There are some others of the caves of a petrifying nature, though none so remarkable for that quality as this.

*Quadrupeds and Birds.*—The quadrupeds and birds are much the same here as in other parts of Scotland. A great number of Bohemian chatterers made their appearance here, in the year 1788. This bird is about the size of a bulfinch, with a beautiful top, and the wings tipped with scarlet. It was never seen before nor since in these parts. A number of wild geese, ducks and swans, resort to the lake in winter.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The parish is in general uninclosed, nor do the people seem sufficiently sensible of the advantages of inclosing. They have indeed one great discouragement, there being no stones in the whole parish; any thing, therefore, that is done in the inclosing way, must be with earthen dikes. The ploughs are yoked some with 4, and some with 6 horses; others with 4, 6, 10, or even 12 oxen\*. Some yoke oxen and horses together. The principal crops are oats and barley; there are a few acres of pease and beans, and a considerable quantity of clover and rye-grass, but little wheat for several years past, although it thrives perfectly well. Turnips and potatoes are in general plenty. There is no hemp, little flax, and that only for private use. White  
and

\* A day's wages for labourers in husbandry, is 10 d. without meat, or 6 d. with it; for masons 1 s. 6 d. without victuals; and tailors 5 d. with victuals; when they work in their own houses, they always charge so much for the piece of work according to its size and quality. Other handicraftsmen generally work at home, and charge by the piece. A male servant's yearly wages, in the different branches of husbandry, are between L. 5 and L. 8 Sterling: A female's about L. 2. or L. 2, 10 s.



and red cabbage, greens, &c. are planted in yards\*. The state of this parish in the years 1782 and 1783, was in general better than that of any other around it. Notwithstanding the great number of fishers, had there been no grain fold to pay the rents, this parish could have supplied the parishioners with bread. The bear was good, and the oatmeal whiter and stronger, as well as more plentiful, than in almost any other parish in the country. All kinds of vegetables, common in the north of Scotland, thrive exceedingly well here; but there is not a tree in the whole parish, except a few around the house of Captain Gordon of Pitlurg, called Gordon Lodge, on his estate of Leask. These few are of a pretty considerable size. This gentleman is every year making small plantations that seem to thrive perfectly well; but the want of waste or barren ground in this parish will never allow great plantations in it.

*Manure.*—There is a great deal of marl of different kinds in this parish, some of which is very rich, and produces excellent crops; limestones are always found amongst it, which, when gathered and burned, produce very fine lime. A ridge of irregular hillocks runs across the parish, which consist of large sand, or rather gravel, mixed with smooth round limestones, many of them little larger than a man's hand, and none of them larger than one man can easily lift. Upon breaking these stones, many of them prove their being of marine substances, whole muscles and other shells

\* Beans and pease are generally sown about the beginning of March, oats from the beginning of March to the middle or latter end of April; some early oats are now used and turn out well. Barley with grass seeds, from the middle of April to the middle of May; turnips in June; potatoes and cabbage are planted in March and April; greens of different kinds in April and the middle of July. Harvest generally begins in the latter end of August.

shells being found in them. So that the limestone here has a very curious appearance to strangers, whether in a whole or a broken state. This gravel, has of late been used, with great success, as a manure for the land in the neighbourhood. Its excellency was discovered about 20 or 25 years ago. They used this gravel for repairing the highway between Aberdeen and Peterhead, and some years after were surpris'd to see fine white clover, growing very thick on those places of the road, which had been repaired with this gravel, and every other place as bare as ever. This induc'd them to try the gravel as a manure, which they continue to use, and find it uncommonly rich and durable. About 10 years ago, there was another kind of calcareous sand discovered. This sand is quite small, and has a very great proportion of sea-shells, ground to a powder, amongst it. There is plenty of it on many farms, where it produces most excellent crops, and continues for many years. It was first tried by a poor man at some distance from the other kind.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are only two heritors in the parish, which, for ages, has been the property of the Earls of Errol and the Gordons of Pitlurg. The antiquity and honours of both these families, being universally known, need not be enlarged upon. It is proper, however, to observe, that, about Martinmas 1791, the Earl of Errol, to whom the greater part of the parish, together with the patronage, belonged, sold the whole of his property in this parish, to the late Alexander Callander of Crichton, Esq; M. P. Captain Gordon resides in the parish. The valued rent is not exactly known; the real rent is about L. 1250 Sterling, and rather on the increase. The land, not possessed by the proprietors, is divided among 58 or 60 tenants, at various rents, from L. 2 to L. 80 Sterling, or rather more; besides 16 bolls of bear *per annum*. The farms in general,

however, are small, there having been little variation in that respect for these many years. The best arable land lets at 20 s. *per* acre, and inferior ground in proportion.

*Population.*—The records of this parish being quite modern, there is no account of the population extant, previous to the enumeration recorded by Dr Webster in 1755. The following table exhibits a view of its present state.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of SLAINS.

Population in 1755,	—	1286
———— in April 1791,	—	1117
Decrease,	—	169
Average of births*, for 7 years preceding 1791,		26
———— of deaths,	— ditto,	5
———— of marriages,	— ditto,	16
Males in the towns of Collistown and Oldcastle †,		146
Females in ditto †,	—	173
		Num-

\* The births, marriages and deaths, entered in the parish register for 7 years preceding 1791, are as follows:

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1784	20	9	13
1785	29	5	18
1786	29	3	11
1787	27	9	7
1788	30	2	25
1789	20	4	24
1790	28	5	15
	—	—	—
Total,	183	37	113
Males,	97	37	60
Females,	86	37	53

†† These all make their living by the sea, except a trifle that the women make in winter, or during stormy weather, by working stockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers,

Number of males in the parish,	—	—	524
— females ———,	—	—	593
— houses inhabited,	—	—	269
— Seceders,	—	—	12
— Roman Catholics,	—	—	1
— Episcopalians,	—	—	32
— proprietors residing,	—	—	12
— ——— non-residing,	—	—	1
— Clergymen,	—	—	1
— merchants,	—	—	5
— schoolmasters,	—	—	1
— farmers,	—	—	60
— ale-sellers,	—	—	7
— smiths,	—	—	5
— carpenters,	—	—	2
— square-wrights,	—	—	5
— weavers,	—	—	7
— shoemakers,	—	—	10
— tailors,	—	—	14
— mills,	—	—	4
— millers,	—	—	6
— poor,	—	—	24
— young persons taught English, writing,			
Latin and arithmetic,	—	—	40
— boats †,	—	—	10
— seamen and fishermen, of all descriptions,			146
— ploughs,	—	—	52
— acres, (in Scotch measure),	—	—	6771
— infield,	—	—	1449
— outfield,	—	—	2321
			Number

† Nine of these boats pay 50 merks Scotch yearly to the proprietor, and the ferry-boat L. 13 Sterling.

Number of acres in pasture, water and mofs,	—	1751
————— in sands and bent,	—	1250
Real rent, <i>anno</i> 1791, in Sterling,	—	L. 1250
Number of horses,	—	254
————— black cattle,	—	1138
————— sheep,	—	1214

*Church, School and Poor.*—The stipend is about L. 25 Sterling in money, 2 chalders of bear, and 2 chalders of oat-meal, with a glebe of nearly 4 acres. The Rev. Mr WILLIAM PATERSON, who is now minister, is nearly 87 years of age; he has been settled here upwards of 42 years, and is highly and justly respected, and esteemed by all within the bounds of his parish.—He enjoys uncommon good health for his years, and preaches almost every other Sabbath, but was not able to undergo the fatigue of drawing up this account. The church was built in 1599; the manse in 1761. Major John Callander of Crichton is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is 6 bolls 2 firlots 2 pecks of meal, and 10s. 7 d. Sterling in money. The school fees and other perquisites are much the same as in other parishes in the neighbourhood. Scholars taught Latin and arithmetic pay 2s. a-quarter; English and writing 1 s. 6 d. Sterling. There are but few who learn any thing else. The number of scholars, though at an average, about 40 in winter, is scarcely 20 in summer. This difference is chiefly owing to the sea towns, as none come from them in summer, every child from 6 or 7 years old being employed about their fishing lines. The yearly collections for the poor amount to about L. 18 Sterling. There are besides 25 merks Scotch given yearly among 4 poor families, from a sum mortified by one of the late Earls of Errol for that purpose.

*Miscellaneous*

*Miscellaneous Facts.*—Peats are the only fuel used here. The roads are kept in pretty good repair by the statute labour, though this is not fully sufficient. There are no turnpikes.—There are at present 7 ale-houses or tippling houses, but two of them are so only occasionally. Their effect upon the morals of the people is in general very immaterial. Their sale indeed is very inconsiderable, unless from the fishermen's families, who buy their ale every day as they need it. Indeed, chiefly by them, and travellers, they may be said to live.—There are fewer personal services here than in most parts of the north of Scotland. Services in general have been commuted for money, at certain rates, mentioned in the tenant's leases, for years past. Under tenants work only at mofs and fold; if they are called at any other time, allowances are made them. They generally work to the farmer they live under, for a set fee during the harvest. The mills here are all farmed, except one, at which tenants and under-tenants pay for multure the 17th peck; also out of the multured grain for service, 1 peck and  $\frac{1}{3}$  part out of every 44 pecks. At the rest of the mills no multure is paid, but for services much the same as already mentioned.—Ellon is the nearest post-office, and is about 5 English miles distant. There are no uninhabited houses in the parish, nor have any additional ones been built for years past.

*Proposed Improvements.*—The chief, and indeed the only effectual means of bettering the condition of the people, would be to grant them longer leases, even although it should be at a rising rent. In this country, leases are seldom granted for more than 19 years. As the present tacksman is far from being sure of renewing his lease, during the last 3 or 4 years of it, he saves all expences, and takes out all the strength he  
had

had infused into his farm, both that he may be compensated for his past trouble, and that he may prevent another's being tempted to offer for it. Either he, or another, enters again for 19 years; if the old, or entering tenant, have not a considerable stock, (which is generally the case), the one half of his time, at least, is over, before he can have even his *infield* in any tolerable order; consequently, as he has made nothing of it, he is unable to do any thing to his outfield. The end of his lease is at hand, and, as he is not sure to get it renewed, if he has a young family, they must be set off to some business, that they may provide for themselves another way; and, if possible, for their parents, who are in great danger of being turned out of their usual way of making bread, when they are scarcely able to apply themselves to any thing else. His lease being nearly expired, this tacksmen, like his predecessors, begins directly to take out of his farm what little substance he had put in. Thus the land is regularly impoverished every 19 years. But if they had long leases, even on the condition of an increasing rent, and that at different periods, which would answer the proprietor's purpose equally well, they could improve with their whole substance, and, as soon as their children came up, they would all exert themselves upon the farm, as being a sure source of provision for their family for many years. Thus would the appearance of the country be rendered unspeakably better, the young men would be induced to stay in the place of their nativity, the people would become more opulent, and be better accommodated, and at the same time the proprietor's rents would be gradually raised, and more punctually paid.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF INVERARAY,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr PAUL FRASER.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

INVERARAY, in Gaelic, *Ion-ar-ao-reidb*, is the modern name of the parish. The appellations by which it was formerly distinguished, viz. Kilmilieu and Gleneray, were either given in consequence of its being the cell of some monk, or from a glen which forms a considerable part of the district. In the Highlands of Scotland, although the names of rivers are sometimes descriptive of their appearance, yet this, in many instances, may be justly called the region of conjecture. The river which runs by Inveraray, in Gaelic, *Ao-reidb*, is a contraction of *Ao*, a privative (not,) and *Reidb*, smooth. This etymology suits with the appearance of some parts of the river at this day, and was very applicable to the whole of it, before its channel was cleared. *Ao-reidb*, is evidently contrasted with *Sio-reidb*, always smooth, the name of another river near



near the town, remarkable for its smoothness. From *Ao-reidb*, is derived *Glenao-reidb*, the valley through which the river passes, and *Ionar-ao-reidb*, the flat ground on both sides the mouth of the river. It is probable, that agriculture was first attempted on such fertile spots as were thus situated. The name universally given in Gaelic to such pieces of ground, favours this idea. *Ion-ar* (or *Inver*) means, worthy of tillage, from *Ion*, deserving of, and *Ar*, to till. *Ion-ar-ao-reidb*, may therefore signify a piece of flat fertile ground at the mouth of a rapid rough river; or, *Aorath*, may signify unlucky, from the frequent accidental drownings, which may be supposed to have happened in a rapid rough river, before bridges were built on it, and which, from the contiguity of the hills, is apt to be overflowed in a very short space of time, an instance of which happened on the 3d of August 1792, when, in consequence of a high flood, salmon and trout were caught on the very roads and meadows.

*Situation, Extent, Fuel, &c.*—Inveraray is the capital of Argyleshire, and near it is one of the seats of the noble family of Argyle. It is pleasantly situated on the side of Lochfyne, in the presbytery of Inveraray, and provincial Synod of Argyle. The length of the parish from North to South is about 17 miles; its breadth is various, but above 3 miles at an average, and its form nearly a crescent. Its appearance is hilly, and even mountainous, though interspersed with several tracts of flat land, particularly about Inveraray, and the whole of Glenshira, which is in length about 5 English miles. A considerable part of the high lands in the parish may be called good pasture, particularly *Benbuie*, where there is at present one of the best and largest sheep stocks in the Highlands; but the greater proportion of the hills may be called barren. The whole of Glenshira, and several fields  
near

near the castle of Inveraray, are of a deep rich soil, and excellent arable land, yet a very considerable part is shallow, and not naturally fertile; though that part which lies within the Duke of Argyle's domain, has been considerably meliorated by cultivation, and particularly by the vast quantities of lime annually laid upon it; a species of manure well adapted to most lands of this country, but from the use of which, all, except the rich and affluent, are almost totally precluded, by the dearth of coals, and the scarcity of other fuel necessary to burn it. The inhabitants are satisfied, if they can make as many peats as will barely serve their domestic uses; and it is a well known fact, that, in the year 1790, many were reduced to great extremities for want of fuel. The heavy duty, laid on coals carried coastwise, appears to be as unreasonable as it is impolitic, and is universally complained of, as an intolerable burden; and, with respect to the whole of Argyleshire, so unproductive that it is not equal to the expence of the officers employed in collecting it. There was a plan in agitation, a few years ago, for having this grievance removed by means of a fair commutation, but the project seems to have been relinquished; though it were to be hoped, that whatever difficulties have formerly occurred, they may yet be overcome. A change of the laws in that respect, would, therefore, be very desirable; for until that takes place, an insuperable bar lies in the way of every improvement in agriculture, and of every establishment in manufacture. Coals at Inveraray are seldom bought under 16 s. *per* ton, and are often as high as 18 s.

*Climate.*—This parish is in general considered to be healthy, though it is in a rainy climate, which may be partly owing, to the high hills and woods, with which it is surrounded. It has been remarked, that after good fish-

ing seasons, the lower sort of people have been liable to epidemical fevers and fluxes, probably in consequence of their excess in eating too much, of a rich and nourishing food, so different from the spare diet they are accustomed to, during the greater part of the year.

*Rivers and Prospects.*—The run of the water of Aoraidh before it loses itself in Lochfyne, is about 8 English miles. It takes its course partly through rugged and uneven ground, covered with wood, and forms several natural cascades, that, in wet weather particularly, cannot fail to strike the ear as well as the eye of the traveller. At some distance from the castle, the valley opens to a considerable extent, and the traveller is presented with rich meadows, interspersed with stately trees of various kinds. Here the river as well as the grounds assume a new and pleasing appearance, formed both by the hand of art and of taste. In this part of the river, there are many beautiful artificial cascades, which, together with Lochfyne, Duni-coich, (which is covered with wood to the height of 700 feet perpendicular), the banks towards Effachosan and the distant hills and mountains, form together such an assemblage of grand and beautiful objects as are rarely to be seen. Indeed, in regard to extent of pleasure ground, and of fine plantations, hardly any place can vie with Inveraray. At two seasons in the year in particular, the prospect is highly variegated, and truly delightful; and such is the resort of travellers to it, that in 1790, a hundred have viewed it in the space of one week, and in 1792 that number has been doubled in the same space of time.—This perhaps, may not be considered as strictly speaking analogous to the statistical account of the parish: at the same time, it would have been unpardonable, to have passed over  
in

in silence, a place which is so deservedly an object of curiosity to travellers of all ranks; and the description would have been much more extended, had not the masterly pens of a Kames and a Pennant rendered such an attempt unnecessary.—The only other considerable river in this parish is the water of Shira, which glides smoothly through the rich deep glen of that name. Its banks are in a state of high cultivation, and yield luxuriant crops of hay, corn, and barley. It discharges itself into the only fresh water lake in this parish, which is worthy of notice: It is called the *Dubb Loch*, from the darkness of its bottom, or the depth of its water. This lake has a communication with the sea by a small river, about a quarter of a mile in length, and which, with high tides, is navigable for fishing boats. Owing to this circumstance, it is not uncommon, that herring and other salt water fish, such as cod, whittings, mackarel and flounders, are caught in the same draught net with salmon and trouts, the native fish of the lake.

*Coast, Lake, and Fish.*—The sea coast of the parish is 12 miles in extent, and is in general flat, except about two miles at the south end, where it is high and rocky. The sea ware on the coast is of the ordinary sort, and is only used for manure. That part of Lochfyne, by which this parish is bounded on the east and south east, has been for time immemorial noted for its herrings, which are superior in quality to any found in the western seas. The harbour of Inveraray was anciently called *Slochk Icbopper*, which means the Gullet where vessels bought or bartered for fish; and there is still represented in the Shield of the town of Inveraray's Arms, a net with a herring, with this motto, "*Semper tibi pendeat balec.*" It appears, that anciently the  
French

French merchants used to come and barter their wines for herrings, as there is a point of land, about 3 miles south of Inveraray, still called the Frenchman's point; and the tradition of the country is, that it was to that particular spot the herrings were in use to be brought, in order to be cured and sold. The herring fishing commonly begins in the month of July, and has been known to continue till the first of January. In some years, when herrings came in a considerable body, there have been at least 500 boats employed in catching them, each boat having 4 men at an average. From the best information, it is believed, there have been caught and cured in some seasons 20,000 barrels, valued then at 15 s. *per* barrel. Lochfyne is also famous for haddocks, whittings, cod, &c. and is well adapted for fishing, having a clean bottom and no banks or hidden rocks. Its depth may be from 50 to 100 fathoms.

*Fossils.*—The only remarkable fossil in this parish is the stone, of which a great part of the castle is built, which is taken from a quarry about 4 miles south of Inveraray. It is of a blue colour, and ranked under the micaceous class of stones. There is likewise a quarry of grey clouded marble, a mile north of Inveraray, out of which some considerable blocks have been taken, but of a middling quality.

*Population.*—The population of the parish of Inveraray, has considerably decreased, within these 40 years. The cause of this decrease is principally owing to the last enumeration, sent to Dr Webster, having been made up, about the time when the castle of Inveraray was finishing, which required a great number of hands, that became no longer necessary, when it was completed. The following table, exhibits its present state, as accurately as could possibly be ascertained.

POPULATION TABLE of INVERARAY\*.

Population in 1755, -	2751	Number of mafons, -	5
——— in 1792, -	1832	——— carpenters, -	15
Decrease, -	919	——— weavers, -	7
Inhabitants in the town, 1063		——— shoemakers, -	20
——— in the country, -	769	——— tailors, -	15
Males, -	930	——— butchers, -	2
Females, -	902	——— millers, -	2
Average of births for the laft		——— bakers, -	2
24 years, -	58	——— gardeners, -	7
Persons under 10, -	480	——— fifhermen, -	8
——— from 10 to 20, -	463	——— ferrymen, -	2
——— 20 to 50, -	528	——— watchmakers, -	1
——— 50 to 70, -	298	——— coopers, -	2
——— 70 to 80, -	55	——— wheelwrights, -	1
——— 80 to 90, -	5	——— faddlers, -	1
——— 90 to 100, -	3	——— founders, -	1
Number of merchants, -	6	——— barbers, -	3
——— furgeons, -	1	——— carters, -	3
——— writers, -	6	——— meffengers, -	4
——— fhopkeepers, -	5	——— fheriff-officers, -	4
——— innkeepers, -	1	——— flaters, -	10
——— fmiths, -	8	——— milliners, -	2

*Proprietors and Rent.*—The rent of the parifh cannot be exactly afcertained, as a great part of it is in the poffeffion of the Duke of Argyle; but if wholly let to farmers, it is believed, it might be worth about L. 2400 Sterling, befides the rent from woods. The valued rent, by a valuation taken in the year 1751, is L. 274 : 11 : 11 Sterling, which was

\* ABSTRACT of Births and Marriages.

Births from 1651 to 1661, -	35		
——— 1676 to 1686, -	52		
——— 1700 to 1710, -	58		
——— 1720 to 1736, -	61	Marriages from 1720 to 1736, 16	
——— 1746 to 1766, -	62	——— 1746 to 1766, 14	
——— 1766 to 1790, -	58	——— 1766 to 1790, 16	

was half the then real rent, after deducting public burdens. The whole parish is the property of the Duke of Argyle, except two farms, which belong to three small heritors.

*Town of Inveraray.*—The town, except one house or tenement, also belongs to the Duke, who gives leases, for three or four years, of ground to build upon, to the inhabitants, at a small rent; but, as many of the inhabitants could not afford to be at that expence, his Grace has built a considerable part of the town himself, from which he draws in all a rent of L. 372 : 2 : 6 *per annum*. About 15 years ago, the old town, which was situated on the north end of the bay, was removed, and a new town was built on the south end of it; and, if the streets were completed, no town in the kingdom, of its dimensions, would make a better appearance. The houses are commodious and well built, and there is not one thatched house in the whole of it. It is probable that the town of Inveraray was little more than a place for fishermen, who lived by their occupation, prior to the beginning of the fourteenth century, about which time the family of Argyle fixed upon it as the place of their residence. At what period it was considered as the county town, is uncertain\*. Its becoming so, must have been a consequence of the  
the

\* Though few places are better adapted to gratify the eye of a traveller of taste, yet there is little to engage the researches of the antiquarian, or to throw much light upon history. There are no remains of any ancient buildings or obelisks, except the vestiges of one of the old forts so common in the Highlands, which may be traced at Duni-coich, and one large stone at some distance from the front of the Duke of Argyle's castle, with regard to which there is no tradition. Among the more recent events in this parish may be mentioned the sufferings and execution of many of the name of Campbell, (some of them people of family and fortune), at Inveraray in the 1685, for their firm ad-  
herence

the hereditary jurisdictions of Justiciary and Sheriffship, with which the family of Argyle were, for some centuries invested, as their courts would fall, in general, to be held at Inveraray. It was erected into a royal burgh by charter from King Charles I. dated at Carisbrook castle, in the Isle of Wight, 28th January 1648. The only revenues belonging to it, as a burgh, arise from the petty customs, (among which is included a small toll on cattle passing through the burgh, to the lowland or English markets, the number of which, may amount, at an average, to about 4000,) and the rent of a common, which, from the first erection of the burgh, has been bestowed upon it by the family of Argyle. Both these articles may amount to about L. 30 Sterling annually. About 42 years ago, Archibald Duke of Argyle, seeing how inadequate this revenue was for the occasions of the Burgh, added to it a perpetual annuity of L. 20 *per annum*, for which he granted security upon his estate.

*Castle.*—Although the family of Argyle, upon their coming to Inveraray, conformed to the customs of the times, by building a very large and strong castle, within a small distance of the present one, towards the river, (which has only been pulled down within these 24 years); yet it does not appear, that for many ages, they did any thing considerable, towards the improvement or embellishment of the place, till about the middle of the last century, when the Marquis of Argyll, began to plant a few trees, some of which

herence to the Presbyterian interest. As a tribute due to their memory, a monument is erected at Inveraray, near the centre of the town. Such was the barbarity which marked those times, that the plantations and nurseries at Inveraray were then almost totally destroyed. It ought also to be remarked, that by the wise and vigorous exertions of Lord Ilay, the burgh of Inveraray was secured, when General Gordon, with an army of 3000 men, came to surprize it, in 1715.



which are still extant. It is probable, that he was early diverted from this purpose, by the confusion of the times, and that nothing was afterwards done, till the re-establishment of the Earl his son, some time between the 1663 and 1670. During the short period of his possession, it appears, that he had particularly bent his thoughts towards beautifying the family seat, and almost the whole of the old trees about Inveraray, are of his planting, and still remain a singular instance of his good taste and discernment, respecting that which was best adapted to the nature of the soil and climate. Some of the most admired avenues, rows of trees, and plantations, are of his designing, and plainly show, had he lived longer, that much would have been done, upon a very large scale, even at that early period. Since the beginning of the present century, the several successors to the estate and honours of Argyle, have been particularly attentive to extend their plantations, and to embellish the place. About the year 1745, the present castle was begun, by Archibald Duke of Argyle, and, after a short interruption during the rebellion, it was resumed and finished. Since that time, a great sum was annually expended by him, by his successor the late Duke, and by the present, in making extensive inclosures, in building, planting, improving, making roads, (which in this parish are highly finished, and kept in excellent repair,) and in other works of utility and decoration. It is said, that the sums laid out at Inveraray, since the 1745, do now amount to the enormous sum of L. 250,000, and that the present Duke, since his accession to the estate, has expended at the rate of at least L. 3000 *per annum*. Happily for his family and his country, Newmarket had not engrossed his attention; and hence a considerable part of his great revenue was fortunately employed, for more useful purposes, in promoting the general improvement of his estates, in giving employment to the poor,  
and

and in extending industry and manufactures. Thus, also, he was enabled to give his lands to his tenants, on reasonable terms; and hence, if they are sober and industrious, none, in their station of life, need live more comfortably. Accordingly, the numerous tenantry on his Grace's estates, are so much satisfied with their situation, and so much attached to their great proprietor, who even, in these peaceable times, refuses to listen to any proposals of an augmentation of rent from shepherds or store-masters, which might have a tendency (unless when conducted on proper principles \*,) to dispossess the natives, and to dispeople the country, that, were it necessary, there is, perhaps, no subject in Great Britain, who could bring so great a number of persons into the field, in defence of his Sovereign and of his country.

*Manufactures.*—Archibald Duke of Argyll, about the year 1748, introduced the linen manufacture into this parish, which has since been attended with beneficial consequences to the country; and, about the year 1776, the present Duke first established an woollen manufacture, having, at a very considerable expence, built houses, erected machinery, and provided every material necessary for carrying it on successfully, at the water of Douglas. At the same time, his Grace, as an additional encouragement, gave the farm upon which the factory was built, at a very low rent, took some shares in the concern, and did every thing in his power, to insure success to so patriotic an undertaking. The plan was also seconded by many gentlemen of the county, who advanced money to the manufacturer at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest. Notwithstanding which, and, that his Grace gave the use of the whole buildings and utensils *grat-*

VOL. V.

P p

*tis,*

\* The proper plan is, to induce the natives, gradually to convert their cattle into sheep, which is a much more profitable stock for Highland property.

*tis*, the business was not conducted with advantage. It is still, however, carried on, and the present occupier has the same encouragement which his predecessors enjoyed. The want of spinners is what he principally complains of, which, in a great measure, may be accounted for, by the time taken up in so moist a climate, in preserving their peats. That is almost the only fuel at present in the country. In preparing them, females are chiefly employed, and they are often the principal work to be attended to for several months. This unavoidably interferes with, and retards the business of the whole year, and is, in fact, a very great obstacle to all improvement in this country, the best part of the season being thus consumed in providing fuel\*.

*Commerce.*—The quay, scarcely deserves that name, as it does not at present answer the intended purpose. Were there, however, a little addition made to it, it would be a safe and commodious harbour. There is one vessel belonging

\* In the year 1754, a company from Lancashire, under the firm of the Argyll Furnace Company, erected a blast furnace for smelting of iron ore, by means of wood charcoal, in the southern extremity of this parish. They were much encouraged by the late Archibald Duke of Argyll, who gave them a tack of three cuttings of his woods, in this and some other parishes, upon very reasonable terms. The Company import ore and ironstone in vessels of their own, from the west of England, which they return loaded with pig iron of very superior quality, timber, oak-bark, &c. The establishment of this Company was particularly advantageous to this country, in raising the price of woods, and serviceable, in giving employment and bread, to a considerable number of hands, both male and female, annually employed in cutting and peeling the woods and making charcoal. The business of this Company, is believed to be carried on, much to the advantage of all concerned, and with the good-will and to the great satisfaction of all who had any dealings with them. For many years past it has been conducted by Mr Joseph Latham, proprietor of a considerable share in it, whose attention, candour, and humanity, have gained him universal esteem as a valuable member of society.

ing to the town, employed in foreign trade, and about half a dozen small vessels, mostly employed in importing meal, coals, porter, and merchant goods, and in exporting wool, oak-bark, and timber. Were the coal-duty abolished, the wool of the country would, in time, be manufactured at home.

*Produce*---Corn, hay, and potatoes, are the principal crops raised in this parish, the soil, in general, being too wet for barley. The climate and soil seem well adapted to the cultivation of turnips, as the fly and droughts, which are so unfriendly to this plant in other countries, are unknown here. The grain raised in the parish is, by no means sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The town and parish are chiefly supplied with meal from the Clyde, Dumfries, or Ireland; and there are annually imported, from 8000 to 10,000 bolls, part of which is carried to some of the neighbouring parishes. Meal, in general, is as high priced here as in any part of the kingdom\*.

*Animals*.—A breed of the best Highland cattle in this country, are reared at Inveraray, where there are also some  
good

\* There are no regular markets in the parish for butcher's meat, poultry, or milk. This inconvenience is the less felt, in consequence of the accommodations, which most of the principal inhabitants of Inveraray enjoy, by their having low rented farms from the Duke of Argyll. From the farm of Stronshira also, it is intended to supply the town with milk and butcher's meat. Beef, according to its quality and season of the year, is sold from 5 s. to 8 s. *per stone*, troy weight. Mutton, lamb, and veal, are dear in proportion. Butter at 10 d. *per lb.* and cheese from 5 s. to 6 s. *per stone*, to the 1st of January. Salmon from 3 d. to 4 d. *per lb.* all troy weight. The crews of two boats, supply the town amply, upon very reasonable terms, with cod, haddocks, and whittings. Men servants, when maintained, have from L. 5 to L. 7 Sterling, and female servants from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling *per annum*. Day-labourers earn, according to the season of the year, from 10 d. to 1 s. 4 d. Artificers from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. *per day*.

good cattle of the Galloway and Lancashire kinds. The cattle at the Highland dairy, are worth about L. 10 each, and the whole of the cattle within the parks, amounting to near 600, may be worth L. 8 at an average. Here are also some English sheep of the Bakewell breed, some of the Linton, many of the small Highland kind, and a Spanish ram. At Benbuie there is a considerable sheep stock of the Galloway black-faced breed. The sheep and cattle of the parish in general, are not of a superior quality or value to those of the neighbourhood. The district abounds with game, particularly deer, roes, hares, heath-fowls, and grouse.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Duke of Argyll is patron of both livings. The family of Argyll have at all times countenanced the clergy, particularly the ministers of this place, and have uniformly accommodated them with farms at a low rent, near the town, indeed on such moderate terms, as scarcely to have exceeded a twentieth part of their value. The livings are good, though the amount of them cannot be exactly ascertained at present; they arise from the teinds of the parish, now exhausted, (which have been voluntarily given up by the Duke of Argyll,) and from the Bishop's teinds in the gift of the Synod \*. Both ministers

\* Upon this subject it may be observed, that a Committee of Parliament for the valuation of the teinds of Argyllshire, sat at Inveraray in 1629-30, and reported an accurate statement of the same; which forms at present part of the records of the Teind-office at Edinburgh, and is uniformly approved of by the High Court of the Commission of Teinds in Scotland. The minutes of the proceedings of this Committee, are still extant, and in the possession of the Synod of Argyll, then designed the Provincial Assembly of Argyll, which met regularly twice every year from the 1639 to the 1661, and went through much business with great deliberation, and without being molested or interrupted by the commotions and troubles, which at that time prevailed in Scotland. Another

sters have pasture and hay for two cows and a horse, and allowance for a garden. The minister of the Highland charge

the Committee of Parliament, for the disjunction and erection of churches, and modification of stipends in Argyllshire, appointed by an unprinted statute, 21st January 1649, met at Inveraray in 1650 and 1651. Upon the proceedings of this Committee, which are still preserved in the possession of the Synod of Argyll, a regular report of their decrees was made out, and authenticated, which also remained in the possession of the Synod, until of late years, that it was brought from them, by warrant of the Court of Session, and also lodged in the Record-office. Many of the benefices and livings of the ministers in the shire of Argyll, at this day, are founded upon no other title than these decreets. The parish of Glenaray in particular, was thereby disjoined, and erected into two distinct charges, namely, the Highland charge, which was given to the first minister of the parish, and the Lowland or English congregation, which was given to the second. Part of the provision of the latter was composed of 3 chalders victual, payable out of the Bishop teinds of Bute, the teinds of the parish itself being inadequate to the stipend payable to the second minister. These 3 chalders were regularly received by him, from the 1652 to the 1724; but the Earl of Bute, having obtained a grant from the Crown of all the teinds of the Isle of Bute, he withheld payment of these 3 chalders. The Synod acquiesced in this grant, not knowing that it was out of the power of the Crown, without consent of Parliament, to dispose of the bishop's rents, or grant any deed so as to invalidate the decreet of locality 1651, in favour of the charge of the Lowland congregation at Inveraray; which decree had been awarded by a Commission specially appointed by Parliament 1649; was confirmed by the rescissory acts (61) *anno* 1661, and (28) *anno* 1663, and the acts 1689 and 1690; was approved of by the High Commission 1st December 1690, and fortified by the homing 1691, the act of treasury, in July following, and uninterrupted possession from the 1651 to the 1661, and from the 1698 to the 1724. But, in a process brought at the instance of the minister before the Court of Session, in 1770, for the recovery of these 3 chalders, the cause was unfortunately argued by both parties, as if the decreet in his favour, had been pronounced by the High Commission for Plantation of Churches, which always sat at Edinburgh, without ever attending, that in fact the decreet had issued from a commission of Parliament, appointed for the province of Argyle, by the unprinted statute 1649, which actually sat at Inveraray for the years 1650 and 1651, and carried on business as if no civil war had then

charge has also an allowance for a glebe. There are two good commodious manſes built about 14 years ago, with ſufficient office-houſes. Since the demolition of the old town, there have been only temporary places of worſhip. Two new churches, under one roof, are to be built next ſeaſon. The deſign, by Mr Milne of London, is partly Gothic; it is ornamented by a handſome ſpire of 107 feet in height, riſing from the centre of the building, and the whole is calculated to unite elegance with utility and convenience.

*Schools.*—The Engliſh ſchool has been long well attended; and, for ſeveral years paſt, there have been, at an average, about 80 ſcholars in winter, and 60 in ſummer. The ſalary amounts to L. 19 : 3 : 4, beſides quarterly fees, and other perquiſites; and a ſmall allowance for a Sunday ſchool, which has been kept about 7 years, and is well attended. The grammar ſchool, has not, of late, been ſo well attended as at ſome former periods. This may be attributed, chiefly to the great number of private teachers, of late employed in the education of youth, and partly to the expence of boarding, which is high at Inveraray. The ſalary amounts to L. 31 : 11 : 8, beſides quarter fees and perquiſites. The ſchoolmaſters have each a houſe, garden, and  
grafs

then exiſted. This common error of parties, is ſaid to have been fatal to the cauſe. On the report of the Lord Ordinary, grounded on a hiſtorical detail of the impracticability of the High Court of Commiſſion having ſat at Edinburgh, on the date of the decreet, (which correſponded with the time the caſtle of Edinburgh was in poſſeſſion of Cromwell's troops, and no Commiſſion of the Scotch Parliament ſitting at Edinburgh,) the Court of Seſſion, not attending to the common miſtake of parties, concluded the decreet ſpurious, and gave ſentence of reduction in favour of Lord Bute, ſetting it aſide as void. This annihilation, of ſo much of the proviſion for the miniſter, of the ſecond charge of the pariſh, after being in poſſeſſion of it from 1651 to 1724, points out the danger of reſting judgments in courts of law, upon conjectures or nice criticifms, without examining into facts.

grafs for a cow, *gratis*, from the family of Argyll. A female academy has been instituted here this season. His Grace, ever attentive to what might redound to the benefit of the town and county, has generously made an addition to the salary from the burgh, besides a good and commodious house, rent free, as an encouragement to the mistresses of the academy, by whom are taught the useful and ornamental branches of female education; and, as every precaution has been used, to obtain a person properly qualified, it is hoped that this institution will be of considerable benefit, both to the town and the county in general; and, though the opinion may appear somewhat singular, it is believed, that good breeding, as well as a liberal education, may be acquired in small, as well as in large societies. There is a society school in Glenaray: The number of scholars who attend it may be about 35 for the one half of the year; but a third part of that number do not attend constantly the other half. The Duke of Argyll allows a salary to a schoolmaster, who teaches near the bridge of Douglas, where the woollen manufactory is established. There is also a school at the furnace, in the southern extremity of the parish.

*Poor.*—The funds for the support of the poor, arise, from the interest of some mortified money, the collection at the church doors, fines, and some small funds, which are regularly distributed at sight of the session to the poor, according to their exigencies. The yearly amount of these funds may be from L. 40 to L. 50 Sterling; but, as this is not adequate to the maintenance of about 40 persons, who are on the poor's roll, they are allowed to beg one day in the week. The Duke of Argyll gives pensions to a considerable number of decayed persons.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The English is the prevailing language in the town, and the Gaelic in the country part of  
the



the parish; the names of all the places seem to be derived from the Gaelic, as *Killian*, *Stronsbira*, *Benbuic*, *Kenmore*, *Leachna-Bhan*, *Kenichbregan*, &c.—Before the 1745 there was but one weekly runner from Dumbarton to Inveraray, and, though the postmasters were allowed the whole postages, they all became insolvent. At present, there are 6 weekly arrivals, and departures, from the south. Yet the receipts at this office, defray the necessary expence; and, for the last 12 months, have returned to the revenue, the sum of L. 319: 17: 5 Sterling. There are, besides, 10 post-offices in the county; a strong proof of the increase of trade and correspondence\*.—At Inveraray there is one principal inn, and several public houses of inferior accommodation.

To every liberal and humane mind it must afford the highest satisfaction to observe the rapid progress which manufactures and improvements of every kind have made in this kingdom, particularly since the 1762; and yet, were the clergy of Scotland actuated with the selfish and interested views, with which they are sometimes unjustly and ungenerously branded, to them, this would be no source of pleasure; for, whilst the day-labourer and artificer have more than doubled their wages, and some other classes of men their fees; whilst proprietors of land have, in many places, more than tripled their rents, many of the established clergy of this kingdom, have, for more than the period alluded to, been precluded from getting augmentations; and, it is believed, that such as have obtained them, have, at an average, scarcely received L. 20 Sterling, whereby they are in  
danger

\* The postage of a letter from London to Inveraray, which is 491 miles, is 1 s. and of one from Oban, which is about 35 miles, is 3 d. Would it not be more conformable to equity, to pay for this, as for all other carriages, as nearly as possible, in proportion to the weight and distance? Letter carriers deliver letters to the inhabitants of all the other post-towns in Scotland; ought not the same to be done here?

danger of losing their rank, usefulness and influence in the scale of society. In this parish the munificence of the noble patron has left no ground for this remark; yet he must be totally void of all sensibility, who would not feel for such as have been thus situated, and whose lines have been cast in less pleasant places\*.—As an instance of longevity in this parish, it may be mentioned, that Provost Brown, late of Inveraray, when 100 years old, headed one of the contending parties at a *shinty match*, (a game peculiar to North Britain, something similar to the golf,) and carried the town's colours in procession among the victors. He died in the 116th year of his age.—It is believed that the farmers of a country, when not oppressed by too heavy rents, are among the most happy, and, upon the whole, the most virtuous class of the community. To diminish their number, by the union of farms, will neither add to the population, nor to the morals of a state, though it may augment the rent roll of an estate, particularly one, better adapted for pasture than cultivation. On the other hand, to subdivide farms into very small separate lots, unless these be occupied by artificers or day-labourers, who will have it in their power, constantly to earn day wages, when not usefully employed on their possessions, must be equally prejudicial to the interests of proprietors and possessors. In this, as in all other matters, extremes ought to be avoided. It were devoutly to be wished, that the general improvement of the country were promoted as much as possible; and, it is believed, that it would have a

VOL. V.

Qq

happy

\* The situation of the parochial schoolmasters of Scotland, also, loudly claims the compassion of the landed interest, and their patience and meritorious services require a more adequate reward, than they at present enjoy. Like the subalterns of the army, they seem justly intitled to the attention of the public; nor is it a satisfactory answer to say, that on every vacancy, there are many candidates in both professions; for so there will be for the office of beadle of Inveraray, which must e'er long be vacant, as the present one is above eighty years of age.

happy effect, if proprietors would encourage and reward the industry of farmers more than some of them do, by allowing them a greater share of the fruits of their labour. At present, that is far from being always the case; the principal, if not the sole view of many proprietors being, to augment their rents, and to fleece their tenants as much as possible. In this, indeed, they are often too successful; for it is a well known fact, that very many of that valuable class of men, after a life of hard labour and abstemiousness, without any other visible cause, but solely the high rents they pay, die poorer than when they first became farmers. There can be no doubt, but that short leases, must be detrimental to the improvement of a country, as well as farmers changing their possessions, so often as they do in many places. At the same time, to introduce strangers endued with knowledge in agriculture, and possessed of substance, may be attended with beneficial consequences. These remarks, however, do not apply to the situation of the people in this parish; for many of the present farmers are the descendants of those who have occupied the same lands for many generations.

*Character.*—The Scotch Highlanders, in general, as well as the natives of this county and parish, in particular, are a high spirited, generous, and brave race of people. From the nature of their country and climate, as well as their early habits, they are inured to bear wet and cold, fatigue and hunger; and consequently are well qualified to sustain the hardships of the field, and have ever been distinguished for their activity and valour, in every quarter of the globe. They seem not averse to a military life, and have proved an excellent nursery to the British army. During the last war, it may be proper to mention, that a battalion of the 71st, almost the whole of the 74th, and the West Fencibles, were chiefly levied in the county of Argyle, towards which the parish of Inveraray largely contributed its proportion.—With regard

gard to their religious opinions, all the people of this parish are of the Established Church. They are, in general, humane and peaceable, orderly and decent in their behaviour; and there are still persons living who remember them distinguished for their good attendance on divine worship, and for their decent observance of the Sabbath. At present, though they merit no peculiar commendation on that head, yet it is not meant to convey any particular censure on them, as being less attentive in this respect, than the people of other parishes. It is certain, at the same time, that the daily resort and frequent intercourse, which they have, with their more southern neighbours, though attended with many beneficial consequences, yet has unfortunately been productive of one evil; namely, that a less strict regard to the institutions of religion, seems to be gradually gaining ground, through the secret, but powerful influence of bad example, in the conduct of the greater number of those (for there are exceptions) who, from all parts of Britain, as well as from other countries, come to view a place, so highly deserving the attention of every traveller of curiosity, taste, or observation. Whatever respect these strangers may shew to the religion of their country, when at their respective homes, they seem to consider it here, as a matter of indifference, whether, as travellers, they may not employ Sunday as a day of amusement, or of travelling. But if, at any period, the lower ranks of men, come to disregard the institutions of religion, as much as these fashionable travellers do, it can hardly be doubted, that very fatal consequences will ensue to society.—A regard to the rules of temperance, may be justly said to prevail, particularly among the people of condition. Too lavish an use of spirits, has been often complained of, amongst the inferior ranks. Dram-drinking, however, though still too much practised, particularly by females of the lowest class, is happily less prevalent than  
at

at former periods; and it were to be wished, that so hurtful a practice could be completely abolished.—No instance of suicide has been heard of in this district; and though Inveraray, be one of the seats for the Courts of Justiciary, when going their circuits, as well as of a Sheriff court, few criminal trials occur; and it is very remarkable, that since the year 1754, there has been no public execution.

N U M.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF TARVES,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS MITCHELL.*

---

*Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil and Climate.*

THE parish of Tarves is situated in the Synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Ellon. It is in length from N. to S. 9 measured miles, and in breadth from E. to W. 6\*.—The appearance of the country is flat, interspersed with some hills of a small size. The soil is various; in some parts deep, and in others shallow, but in general fertile. The air is healthy; there are no diseases but such as are generally prevalent throughout the kingdom.

\* As the parish has not been measured, the number of acres cannot be ascertained. It is reckoned 60 ploughs of land, by the old computation, the rule by which tenants pay services and public burdens.

dom. The river Ythan runs through a part of the parish, but is not navigable.

*Cultivation, Produce, &c.*—The productions of the parish are barley, oats, peas, turnips, and potatoes. It does much more than supply itself with provisions. The grain is generally sold at Aberdeen, or at Newburgh, for exportation; the butter, cheese and poultry, at Aberdeen. The oats sown in March and April, are generally reaped in September and October; the barley sown in April and May, is reaped, about the end of August, and first of September. There are 50 acres of Scotch firs at Tolquhon, some of them of considerable size, planted above 50 years ago; with some ashes and planes. There are no other woods in the parish.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—The valued rent is L. 4880 Scotch; the real rent about L. 2000 Sterling; but, as a considerable part of the rent, is payable in oat-meal, bear, and several customs and services, it cannot be precisely ascertained.—There are only two proprietors; the Earl of Aberdeen, and Hugh Forbes Esq; of Shives: The latter is the only residing heritor.

*Church, School and Poor.*—The stipend is 104 bolls 3 pecks oat-meal; 12 bolls 2 firlots 3 pecks bear, and L. 40 Scotch, paid from the lands of Tolquhon, as the conversion of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  bolls meal. The vicarage tithes yielded, about 20 years ago, 550 merks Scotch, now about 400 merks yearly, including expences of collecting them. The glebe is not above the legal quantity, and there is no grass. The Earl of Aberdeen is patron. The manse was built in 1766. The church is very old and ruinous. There is an  
Antiburgher

Antiburgher meeting-house in the parish.—The schoolmaster has L. 4 Sterling from the parish, besides school-fees; the average number of scholars is about 30.—The number of poor receiving alms is 40; the annual amount of contributions for their relief, is L. 20 Sterling. There is L. 100 Sterling, lent out at interest, belonging to the poor's funds.

*Provisions, Fuel, Wages, &c.*—The prices of provisions, are the same as in Aberdeen markets, to which they are usually carried for sale, and where those who need to purchase are supplied; except what articles are bought and sold in the Old Meldrum weekly market, which is regulated by the Aberdeen prices.—Peats are the common fuel used in the parish.—The men servants employed in husbandry, receive, of wages about L. 6 Sterling a-year; women about L. 2 10 s. The only manufacture, carried on in this district, is knitting stockings for the Aberdeen stocking merchants, who furnish the wool and pay for the work.

*Agriculture.*—The old mode of farming generally prevails. As the leases are seldom longer than 19 years, and many of the tenants pay fines or grassums, as they have no encouragement for improvement. Some of the farmers, however, use lime on their grounds, and have fields of turnips and sown grass. Some use 10, and some, 12 oxen in the plough; others 4 or 6 horses.

*Population.*—The number of souls returned to Dr

Webster in 1755, was	—	—	2346
The population in 1792, was	—		1690
			—
There is therefore a decrease of	—		656
			Of



Of the above there are males,	—	698
————— females,	—	892
————— children under 5 years of age,		190
Number of examinable persons in 1767,	—	1600
————— Antiburgher Seceders, in 1792,		133
————— Episcopalians,	—	12
————— Quakers,	—	2
————— members of the Established Church, reckoning the children of the same profession with their parents,	—	1543
Annual average of births,	—	44
————— of marriages*,	—	18

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The public roads through the parish, on which the statute labour is employed, are in tolerable repair—There is a small village by the church, which has been on the decline for several years past. Formerly a fair almost monthly was held in it, for black cattle, horses, merchandize, &c. now there are only 5 or 6 fairs or markets in the parish.

\* No register of deaths is kept in the parish.

## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF CURRIE,

(COUNTY OF MID LOTHIAN.)

By Dr WILLIAM NISBET, *Physician in Edinburgh.**Name, Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

THE parish of Currie lies about 6 miles W. of Edinburgh. It includes a tract of country from 5 to 6 miles in every direction, but its greatest extent is from E. to W. where it advances even to 9 miles in length. It may be considered as classic ground, being situated in the neighbourhood of that little romantic dale, that formed the scene of the Gentle Shepherd, the favourite pastoral of the Scotch nation. From its name, (anciently *Koria* or *Coria*,) it seems to have been one of those districts that still retain its ancient Roman appellation\*.

VOL. V.

R r

name

\* This conjecture is supported by the following authors, who give an account of the ancient and modern names of places in Scotland. 1. Mr Johnston, in his *Antiquitates Celto-Normannia*, for the *KORIA* of Ptolemy, places CURRIE. 2. Dr Stukely, in his account of Richard of Cirencester's map and itinerary, for the *Coria* of Richard, fixes *Corstlan-law*, in the neighbourhood of Currie. 3. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his Roman

name of this parish also has probably given rise to the surname of *Corrie* or *Currie*; for anciently it was the practice for men of property to take their surnames from the lands they possessed, of which there are numerous examples in Scotland; while, in modern times, we find this custom reversed, men of property being now more inclined to confer their surnames on the property they acquire.

*Situation and Climate.*—The situation of this parish is very elevated. At Ravelrig, about the middle of it, (but by no means the highest point,) it is, according to a late very accurate measurement, not less than 800 feet above the level of the sea. This extreme height, and its vicinity to the range of the Pentland Hills, renders it cold and damp, and, what is a remarkable proof of the moisture of the atmosphere, there is almost no house in the parish, however high its site, but displays marks of this state of the climate internally on the walls. In spite of this, however, it is pretty healthy, which may be considered as an effect of the constant winds that prevail here, and carry off those seeds of disease, which are generated by the cold and dampness of the climate. Rheumatism seems the chief disorder to which its inhabitants are subject. But if occasional diseases are not frequent, yet the constitutional disorder of scrophula, which is still worse, is very prevalent here, and the same remark may be extended, it is believed, to all the parishes where the climate is cold and damp, and where the living of the inhabitants is poor, and principally of the vegetable kind. The miseries this disorder

man Antiquities of Scotland, conceives it to have been in the plain near the manor of Ingleston, from a pillar dug up there, which place is likewise in the vicinity of Currie. These circumstances tend to prove, that it must have originally been a Roman station, traces of which have lately been found in the neighbourhood.

order produces to society, would, in many places in Scotland, seem to require the interference of the Legislature, to prevent, if possible, its increase.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is not equal to its extent, or even to what it was about 60 or 70 years ago. In the year 1720, it is said to have contained about 1800, though that number is merely conjectural. Since that time, it is supposed to have decreased considerably\*. Its present amount is 1300, of whom 200 have been added, only within these 4 or 5 years, by the introduction of the paper manufacture. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was only 1227 souls. The proportion of married people, and single persons, is, at present, pretty nearly equal ;

\* The decrease of population here may be ascribed to several causes.

1. The first and leading one here, as well as elsewhere, has been the extension of farms, by which several small ones have been swallowed up in one large one. This cause has operated very powerfully in thinning the inhabitants in the upper parts of the parish, where there is now much pasture ground. At present there are only three villages in the parish, Currie, Balerno and Hermiton ; but formerly there were a great many more, though of lesser note ; and many different places, where, in the beginning of this century, from 20 to 30 families resided, are now without an inhabitant.

2. A second cause of depopulation has been the erection of toll-bars, and improvement of roads. About 40 years ago, so bad were the roads in this parish, that every thing was conveyed on horseback. In carrying hay, for example, to Edinburgh, each horse load was 10 stones, and one man had the care of two horses ; so that to transport 150 stones that far, required *then* the assistance of 15 horses and 7 men, which is performed now by a common cart, with a pair of horses and one man.

3. The modern improvements in husbandry have been attended with the same effect. Formerly four horses were requisite for one plough, with a man to drive them. Now two are deemed sufficient, and they are trained

qual; and, except those employed in the paper manufacture, and a few mechanics of different occupations, not exceeding 12, the rest of the inhabitants are confined to the business of agriculture. In their religious opinions, one half of the parish are Seceders, which occasions a considerable decrease in the weekly collections at the church.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The stipend, including the value of the glebe, (which consists of a small inclosure of four acres,) does not exceed L. 100 Sterling. It is paid partly in grain, and partly in money. On that account, it has rather of late years been on the rise. The patronage of the church may be disputed, but the Town-council of Edinburgh have for some time past assumed the right of nomination. The parish seems originally to have belonged to the collegiate church of Corstorphine, dedicated to St  
John

trained to go without a driver. The same may be instanced in many other departments of husbandry.

4. A fourth and very powerful cause has been, the preference given of late to the occupation of the mechanic, over that of the husbandman. For here, as in all situations near a great town, where manufactures are flourishing, the young generation, tempted by higher encouragement, have forsaken the employment of agriculture, the inconveniences of which were more immediately before their eyes, and have entered into a new life, the prospects of which are more promising. Hence the number bred to agriculture in this parish is very small, in proportion to what it was formerly.

5. To these general causes of depopulation, a fifth and peculiar one here may be added, viz. the suppression of smuggling. As this part of the country, is the opening to the shire of Ayr, (the chief seat of that trade,) it formed the retreat of those adventurers engaged in it, when bringing their goods to Edinburgh, being at a convenient distance, so that when a fit opportunity offered, they could easily transport them. Hence that clandestine commerce added formerly to the numbers of this parish, especially in the remote parts of it.

John the Baptist, and founded by Sir John Forrester. Even so late as the reign of Charles I. it does not appear to have been a separate parish, for no mention of it is made in the Royal decree of the Erection of the See of Edinburgh, though all the adjoining parishes are noticed\*. The present kirk is a neat modern edifice, built a few years ago. It is situated on a height above the village of Currie, on the south side of the water of Leith, and the spire, rising out of a clump of ancient plane and ash trees, that grow on the banks of the river, exhibits at a distance, when they are in leaf, a very beautiful and picturesque appearance.

*School.*—The salary of the parish schoolmaster here, with his different perquisites, amounts to from L. 16 to L. 20 *per annum*, independent of his fees. He has generally from 45 to 50 scholars, and no situation about Edinburgh, would be better adapted for a grammar school, if the heritors would be at the expence of a proper school-house, that the master might be enabled to take boarders. It is in a healthy country, at a distance from any town, where bad examples are apt to be set, and it has the convenience of a stage passing twice a-week through it.

*Poor.*

\* That Currie, however, though not perhaps a separate parish, had very anciently been a place of religious worship, is clear from this proof, that in digging for the foundation of the present church, on the site of the old one, there was discovered a round hollow piece of silver, having the remains of gilding on it, and which seems evidently either a part of the stalk of a crucifix, or of an altar candlestick. It has a screw at each end. Its length is  $7\frac{3}{8}$  inches, and its diameter  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch. In a spiral scroll from top to bottom, there is the following inscription, "*Jesu Fili Dei miserere mei.*" The letters, which are Saxon, are very well engraved, and each  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch large. It is at present in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries in Edinburgh.

*Poor.*—The poor of this parish are not very numerous, amounting generally to 28 or 29, who receive a supply adapted to the exigencies of their case. The funds for that purpose are very good. They consist of a capital of near L. 500 Sterling, which has been gradually accumulating, without any special donation worth mentioning\*. What is much to the credit of the present heritors, rather than allow this fund to be encroached upon, where particular exigencies have demanded a more than ordinary supply in bad seasons, they have readily advanced the money needed from their own pockets, and after the annual resources of the parish, which amount to L. 50 Sterling, could afford to repay them, they have generously refused a return. The yearly mortality is from 21 to 25, and the yearly baptisms, which, from the number of Seceders, cannot be so exactly ascertained, amount to about 34 or 35, and are even increasing.

*Longevity.*—This parish can boast, perhaps, as much as any in Scotland, of the longevity of its inhabitants †. About a year ago, died William Napier, a day labourer, at the advanced age of 113, and till a few years, 5 or 6 at most, before his death, he followed his usual employment. He remembered perfectly well several circumstances at the time of the Revolution in 1688, the accession of Queen Anne, &c. At present there is alive one William Ritchie,

\* The chief part of this fund was raised during the incumbency of the two former clergymen, Messrs Park and Moubray, who being the most popular preachers of the time, drew after them a vast concourse of people from the neighbouring parishes, and thus raised the weekly collections to double their natural amount.

† The late clergyman (Mr Craig) had been no less than 40 years minister of the parish.

chie, a farmer, who is 105 years old, and, what is singular in the history of this man, he incurred the censure of the church, for his connections with the sex, after he had attained the 90th year of his age. There are several other inhabitants of the parish who exceed the age of 90.

*Wood and Planting.*—In the lower parts of this parish, to the north, there is a good deal of wood, but in the higher grounds to the south, where shelter is most needed, it is very bare, and seems a reflection on many of the proprietors, that they have neglected it so long. By planting, the climate, which varies considerably in different parts of the parish, would be a good deal meliorated, and the high winds, which are a consequence of its elevated exposure, and which sweep impetuously from the hills, would not have such a baneful influence during the harvest in shaking the crops\*.

*Soil and Cultivation.*—The soil of this parish is, for the greater part, a tough clay, soon hardened by the heat of the sun, unless when well cultivated. It requires, therefore, a good deal of working, and, in this district, the crops are observed to be richest, after much winter frost, and a good deal of rainy weather in spring. Of about 9000 acres which the parish contains, more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  are arable, or, at least might be brought into tillage. The rest consists of moor or hills. A good deal of grain is raised here, of all the different sorts; but, from the heavy rains, which often fall in autumn, the harvest is frequently retarded, and it requires

\* The winds generally blow here in one of two directions, either E. or W. for the greater part of the year. The former sets in pretty steadily in the end of spring, and beginning of summer, when the fog, with which they are accompanied, proves often hurtful to the young fruit. The west winds are most prevalent in autumn.



requires the winter frost to ripen, or rather to whiten the grain, before it can be reaped. It would therefore be more for the interest of the farmers, at least in the higher grounds, to keep less of their farms in tillage, and more in pasture. A considerable number of black cattle, however, are reared in the pasture grounds, which find a ready sale in the Edinburgh market; and several of the tenants pay their rents in that way. The dampness of the climate, renders it rather unfit for breeding sheep, as they are very subject to the rot in winter; but from its vicinity to the capital, the farmers find it very profitable to purchase, in the spring and summer months, a certain number, for the purpose of fattening them, by which they make a handsome return for the short time they are kept on their grounds. The success of this business depends on choosing the kinds that are the easiest fattened, so as to have two or three returns in the course of the season. A good many horses also, are brought up in this parish; and at Hermiton, one of the most extensive dealers in the island, in that branch, with an uncommon fair character for a jockey, resides in it. The manure used here, is either dung from Edinburgh or lime. The latter is driven from the distance of 5 miles, though there is abundance of limestone in the parish itself, if coal were wrought to burn it.

*Improvements.*—Most of the improvements in this parish, are the work of the present race of inhabitants; a singular enough fact in a district, only 6 miles from the capital. Mr Craig of Riccarton was the first who set the example of inclosing land on his own estate here, which he has now brought to the highest state of cultivation. The late clergyman, Mr Craig, was the first who introduced into it the modern practice of husbandry from East Lothian. He was succeeded in the same system by the ingenious

genious Professor Ferguffon, who has made a variety of agricultural experiments, on a small property he possesses in the parish, which he has changed, in a few years, from a bare heath, to a scene distinguished for beauty and fertility. If ever the stipends of the clergy should come to be increased, (as has been of late proposed), it would be of much benefit to the country in general, that this increase should consist solely in the extension of their glebes. The life of a country clergyman, always allows him a great deal of spare time, which must hang heavy on his hand, if not occupied either in the pursuits of literature or of agriculture, since the constitution of the church bounds his views, in regard to clerical preferment. From the society of his parishioners, he would unavoidably become conversant with subjects of agriculture; and if his glebe is made extensive, so as to render it an object for him to study that business scientifically, from his more enlarged education, and often, superior abilities, he will frequently be enabled to point out a new mode of procedure, which cannot fail to be of much service to his parishioners; for whatever example the minister sets, if popular, is generally much followed by them. Perhaps too, the duties of his office, cannot be more properly fulfilled, than by teaching his flock, by his own example, habits of industry and exertion, in order to better their situation in this life; which probably would not be found, the worst preparation for the next, as is illustrated by our Lord, in his beautiful parable of the talents. As it is, many of the improvements in the different parishes, of late years, may be traced to the exertions of the clergy, in which they ought certainly to receive every possible encouragement,

*Rent, and State of Property.*—The land in the parish of Currie, rents, on an average, at from 20 s. to 25 s. the  
 VOL. V.                                      S f                                      acre,

acre, and it has been on the increase for some years past \*. The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 4408 Scotch, and the real rent to upwards of L. 5000 Sterling. This property is all in the hands of 13 heritors, only 3 of whom live constantly in the parish, though some of the other proprietors occasionally reside in it. As there are no overgrown estates here, the proprietors are pretty much on a footing, and hence the public business is conducted with a regularity and attention, greater than in most other parishes. The property here, like that near most great towns, has been very fluctuating, and the only estate, if it merits the appellation, that can be traced in the possession of one family for 300 years, is a small farm of about L. 40 Sterling yearly rent, the proprietors of which, cultivating their little *Sabine* field, and pursuing the simple life of their forefathers, have kept their inheritance entire, while the possessions of their more powerful and wealthy neighbours, swallowed up by the devouring gulph of luxury and extravagance, have passed into other hands †.

*Roads.*

\* The lands in this parish as might be expected from its nearness to the capital, have greatly risen in value. The estate of Baberton, which sold about 20 years ago, for L. 4000, now pays L. 400 of yearly rent. The farm of New-mills, consisting only of 94 acres, which had formerly been let for 10 s. 6 d. the acre, was sold within these two years, for L. 4200, and now pays 30 s. the acre. The estate of Maleny, from barely L. 500 a year, now lets for upwards of L. 900, and the farm of Ravelrig, which, in the time of the former proprietor, paid only L. 70 a year, now yields L. 212.

† This parish, it may be observed, still furnishes one instance of *run-rig*, a division of property, necessary in this country in former times, to unite the jarring interests of individuals in the common cause, when the business of the age was solely war and depredation. But, what was then considered as the very safeguard of property, the possessors in modern times, justly account the greatest bar to all improvement, and are anxious to do away as rapidly as possible,

*Roads.*—The roads in this parish are uncommonly good, which could not fail to be the case, as the two principal openings to the western parts of Scotland are through it, and there are abundance of materials in every quarter for repairing them. The upper road, passing through Currie, forms the communication with Lanark and the county of Ayr; which, since the erection of the cotton works, has become a considerable thoroughfare, two stages passing regularly that way twice a-week. The lower road, is the common Glasgow road at present, which passes through Hermiton.

*Manufactures.*—With respect to the manufactures of the parish, little can be said. The only one, that of paper, has been lately introduced. The mill of Messrs Nisbet and Macniven, in that branch of business, is, perhaps, the most extensive, on one water-fall, of any at present in the island; and, since its erection, it has increased the population of the parish about 200 souls. While the advantages of manufactures in Scotland cannot be too strongly inculcated, those, in particular, that employ the very young and the aged, ought to meet with every encouragement. The paper trade employs children from 10 or 12 years of age, a period when they can do nothing very laborious, and when their morals, from idleness and neglect, are very apt to be corrupted. It employs also, in some departments, people who are a good deal advanced in life, and after they can no longer work at those occupations without doors, that require much exertion. The annual wages, earned in the work of Messrs Nisbet and Macniven, may amount to from L. 1000 to L. 1200 Sterling, which is mostly spent in the parish, and chiefly in purchasing the very necessaries of life.—There are also several corn mills in this and the adjoining parish, whose chief employment

★

ployment is the making of barley to supply the Glasgow market. Part of it, indeed, is exported to the West Indies, where it serves for the food of the negroes, being preferred by some to rice. The carts that convey the barley to Glasgow, are loaded back with rum and sugar, for the Edinburgh markets, which back carriage is their sole profit, and allows the dealers to vend these articles on the same terms with those in the immediate vicinity of Glasgow. A single horse, in this trade, will transport often near 2 ton weight; a strong proof of the goodness of the turnpike roads in this quarter.

*River.*—The river Leith, takes its rise in the western extremity of this parish, at a place called *Leith-head*, from 3 large springs, which receive various additions in their progress, particularly at the village of Balerno, where they are joined by Bavelaw burn. Its whole course includes a track of not above 14 miles; yet, in this short space, it drives no less a number than 80 odd mills of different descriptions; the rent of some of which, in the immediate vicinity of the capital, is upwards of L. 20 Sterling *per* foot of water-fall.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The only disadvantage to the introduction of manufactures into this parish, is the want of coals, which are brought from between 8 and 9 miles distance. At the same time, every part of this and the adjoining parishes exhibits strong indications of the presence of coal. A number of small crop seams have been found in a variety of directions; and, in one place, at the western extremity of the parish, a seam of no less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick has been discovered, at the depth of only 10 fathoms. Besides, this district of country is surrounded with coal on all sides, and according to the report of one person still living, coal was actually wrought in one part of the parish. At any rate, if once the intended inland navigation  
from

from Lanarkshire by the Shotts hills were completed, the inhabitants of this district will then, as it passes to the north of it, have a ready opportunity of being abundantly supplied with this article. It is now a certain fact, (which the inhabitants of Edinburgh are already beginning to feel,) that the present collieries in its neighbourhood, are fast exhausting of this valuable mineral. The proprietors of them have, at present, the power of raising the article considerably, and the dismal prospect presents itself, that, before many years elapse, it may be raised to double its present extravagant charge. When this scarcity happens, one of two alternatives then only remains, either opening pits in new situations in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, or bringing coals from a distance by water carriage. Would it not then be more for the honour of the present day, if, without waiting till impelled by the last necessity, the completion of the intended navigation, should be immediately resolved on, and the capital put, in a short time, in possession of this most valuable article of coal, at an easy rate? No period can be so favourable as the present, when money is plentiful, commerce in so flourishing a state, and the advantages of the speculation so evident, as not to admit of the smallest doubt.

At present, the heritors of this parish, with a laudable spirit of patriotism, as well as a just sense of their proper interest, intend setting on foot a subscription for the discovery of coal, and to invite some of the adjoining parishes to join them, in the same praise-worthy attempt. If successful, which is hardly to be doubted, it will give a new face to this district of country. It would be well, if such a conduct were imitated in many other places of Scotland, where the want of fuel is so severely felt; for the expence by subscription being thus divided amongst a great number, amounts to a mere trifle to each individual, and the loss, if the attempt prove unsuccessful, is attended with no material disadvantage.

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities.*—In this parish there are few antiquities. On the estate of Captain Scott of Maleny, there are the remains of an old castle, commonly called *Lennox Tower*, said to have been a habitation of the family of Lennox, and which had formed, according to tradition, the occasional residence of Mary Queen of Scots, perhaps

“When love was young and Darnley kind.”

It became afterwards, according to the same tradition, a seat of the Regent Morton. It stands on a very elevated situation, above the bank of the river, commands a beautiful prospect of the Frith of Forth, and in those times, must have been a place of very considerable strength, being inaccessible on all sides. It had a subterraneous passage to the river, (so that no enemy could deprive the inhabitants of water), which has been only shut up within these few years, from the cattle being apt to go down into it. The extent of the rampart, or out wall, which goes round the brow of the hill, is about 304 paces, or 1212 feet. The under part of it is now occupied as a hogstye. *Sic transit gloria mundi* \*.

*Eminent*

\* Not far from this castle, on the opposite side of the river, are the ruins of another ancient edifice, the mansion of the Skenes of Curriehill, the date of whose creation, as Baronets of Scotland, is unknown; but they had possessed very extensive property in this parish. The family of Balmerino, originally, had here also, a considerable domain, which would, no doubt, be forfeited on the attainder, and the execution of their last and brave chief, who died with a heroism worthy of a better cause. On the top of Ravelrig hill, the property of Mr Davidson, there are to be seen the remains of a Roman station, or *exploratory camp*, which affords a farther confirmation of the name of this parish having been originally derived from the Latin. This station has never yet been observed by any of our Antiquaries. It is situated on the summit of a high bank inaccessible on three sides, defended by two ditches, and faced with stone, with openings for a gate. It is named by the country people *Castle-bank*. Farther east, are the appearances of another station or post, which commands an extensive view of the Strath towards Edinburgh, and is styled the *General's Watch*.—They are both very distinctly marked, in an old plan of the Ravelrig estate, in the possession of Mr Davidson, but they are now much defaced, the former proprietor, having carried off the greater part of the stones, to build fences.

*Eminent men.*—This parish was celebrated, in former days, for the residence of many eminent lawyers, and the principal heritors were, at one time, all of that profession. Sir John Skene, of Curriehill, Lord Register in the reign of James VI. was of a family nearly related to the blood royal. Sir James Skene his son, was President of the Court of Session. Sir Thomas Craig, of Riccarton, was Lord Advocate in the same reign, and the defender, in a learned treatise, of the independence of his country, and the expounder of the feudal system. Being a man of singular modesty, (a trait by which his descendants have been also characterised), he refused the honour of knighthood, nor would he ever give the King an opportunity of conferring it upon him. He enjoyed it, however, during his life, without any creation, which was still a higher honour, by the express order of the Sovereign. The Scotts of Maleny, father and son, were likewise eminent lawyers at the same period, and the latter had a seat upon the bench. Thus it appears, that the principal property in the parish, at one period, belonged to the leading men of the law. It is proper also to mention, that the famous Sir Archibald Johnston, of Warriston, whose character is drawn, in a masterly manner, by his nephew Bishop Burnet, was a considerable heritor in this parish, and that one of his sons, James Johnston, was envoy to Brandenburg, and secretary of state, in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne.

*Character.*—Till within these few years, the people of this parish, were sober, industrious, and economical. The vices of the capital, however, are beginning to spread fast amongst them, and the introduction of those baneful articles to the poor, tea and whisky, will soon produce that corruption of morals and debility of constitution, which are already



ready so severely felt in many parishes, and which must soon materially injure the real strength and population of Scotland. The introduction of these articles, is one bad effect, of the present practice of debasing and vitiating malt liquor. Formerly, when that liquor was the only beverage in use, excesses from it did not affect the constitution, as it contained a good deal of nourishment. But now, since it has been debased, it is entirely given up. Tea, as a dietetic article, is substituted in its place, and it is not uncommon to see a labouring man here dining upon it. In this parish, there were several instances some years ago, and there are one or two still, of common labourers saving to the length of L. 50 and L. 100 Sterling out of their days wages. Many of the farmers also, have risen here, from the same situation, by their economy.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Freestone abounds in a great number of places in this parish. At the village of Balerno, a freestone quarry has been wrought for some years, and goes to supply many of the buildings in the New Royalty of Edinburgh. There appears also plenty of ironstone, of a very good quality, along the banks of the river, in every direction; a valuable acquisition, if coal should come to be wrought here. Limestone, also, is abundant, some of which is intermixed with a vein of copper; so that the possession of coal is only wanting, to enrich this part of the country in a high degree. On Captain Scott's estate, a good many years ago, some attempts were even made for a copper mine, but they failed.—The wages of servants of all kinds, are, within these 30 years, more than doubled. 1 s. a-day, and maintenance, are common in harvest; labourers, formerly at 5 d. and 6 d. a-day, are now at 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. Services of every kind are here abolished; except

cept upon two estates, where the servants drive all the coals, and the cottagers are bound to assist in cutting down the crops of the landlord. In the southern parts of the parish, on the high grounds, the seed-time and harvest, are, at an average, about two weeks later than about Edinburgh; but in the lower parts, to the north, they are nearly the same. The harvests of the years 1782 and 1784, were here remarkably bad. The former, was so every where in Scotland; but the latter, was equally so here, from a long tract of wet weather, which prevented the grain from ripening. The prices of provisions here, are much the same, as in the Edinburgh market; as, from the easy conveyance to that quarter, all the produce of the fields, can easily be sent there, if the same price, or something near it, cannot be obtained on the spot.

## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF FETTERCAIRN,

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT FOOTE.**Name and Situation.*

*FETTER* signifies a pass, and *Cairn* a heap of stones; and there are two large cairns at the top of the mountain, and many small ones lower down, near to which, according to tradition, a great battle was fought, from which it is probable that the district got its name. The parish is situated in the presbytery of Fordoun, and Synod of Angus and Mearns.

*Cultivation, Produce, Soil, &c.*—The ground, on the west part of the parish, is of a light sharp quality, with some mofs. On the east, it is of a deeper mould, and some of it clay. The usual crops are oats, bear, pease, and occasionally some wheat. Turnips are very general, and within the last 15 years, the tenants have made very rapid progress in the improvement of their farms. Rents are from 10 s. to L. 1, 7 s. 6 d. The number of farmers, who pay rent to the proprietors, is 170. There are several handsome farm houses, barns, &c. built on Sir Alexander Ramsay's estates, which  
are

are highly commodious to the tenants, and ornamental to the country. A great part of the parish is inclosed with ditch and hedge. There is of late, a great quantity of ash, fir, and birch trees planted. The greatest exertion in this way is made upon the lands of Wotton and Burn, belonging to Lord Adam Gordon. There are 600 acres planted on his estate. His Lordship has built a very elegant house, of moderate dimensions, but exceedingly substantial work. It stands at a small distance from the river Northesk, along the side of which, there is a very long walk of the most beautiful kind. The money Lord Adam Gordon has expended, in planting and building, has given employment to many work people, and adorned a very barren part of this parish. In due course of time, these improvements, it is hoped, will be profitable, as well as ornamental.

*Extent, Heritors, and Rent.*—By a general measurement taken in 1774, there are 14,359 English acres. The real rent is about L. 3500 Sterling. The valued rent by the cess-book is L. 6533 : 3 : 3 Scotch. Four estates, have gone by purchase, to new proprietors, since 1775.—There are 8 heritors connected with the parish, of whom 4 occasionally reside in it.

*Population.*—The number of souls in this parish is about - - - - - 2000  
 The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was, - - - 1950  
 Increase nearly 50

Of the above number, there are 282 living in villages, and 145 in the following trades :

<i>viz.</i> Weavers,	50	Shopkeepers,	-	7
Flax-dressers,	15	Surgeon,	-	1
Shoemakers,	20	Masons,	-	4
Tailors,	16	Slater,	-	1
		Wrights,		

Wrights,	-	18	Butchers,	-	2
Smiths,	-	10	Baker,	-	1
Millers,	-	10			
The annual average of marriages is from					16 to 29
————— of births, ———					50—56
————— of deaths, ———					28—37

*Prices of Provisions, Wages, and Fuel.*—Beef and mutton fell at from 3 d. to 4 d. *per lb.*; oat-meal from 12 s. to 15 s. *per boll*; butter 6 d. to 8 d. *per lb.*—The wages of men servants, are from L. 5, 10 s. to L. 7; of women servants, L. 3 to L. 3, 10 s.; masons and wrights get 1 s. *per day*, besides meat; tailors, 8 d.—The fuel, is chiefly turf from the hills, and peats from the low moor. Coals from Montrose, cost from 8 s. 6 d. to 9 s. *per boll*, (70 stone Dutch weight), besides carriage. The price of this necessary article is very high, from the duty levied on coals carried coastwise, which is hurtful to manufactures, and is justly complained of by all ranks.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The King is patron. The stipend, as stated in the decret, is L. 83 : 6 : 8; part is paid in victual, but the greatest part in money; besides a glebe of 6 acres, including grass. The manse was rebuilt in 1774. The church is a very old house, too narrow for its length, as most of these old kirks are.—The poor in the parish are numerous. Their chief support comes from the collections after worship on the Lord's day, and the money arising from the use of the mortcloth. The failure of crop 1782, increased their number. Some savings, which were then in the box, were employed in purchasing meal; but the effects of that, and the following year, are still felt. The only donation, lately given to the poor here, is L. 50 Sterling by Provost Alexander Christie, of Montrose. The interest, is to be distributed in the month of January every year.  
The

The reason that benevolent gentleman assigns, for the gift, is, " That he bestows it in memory of his father, who was " born in the parish of Fettercairn."

*School.*—A new house and teaching room, were lately built. The salary is L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling, with half an acre of land, and a small garden. The fees, for teaching English, are, 1 s. 6 d.; for Latin and arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. The schoolmaster is a very old man, and has been blind these 16 years. Several young men have served as assistants; but having no fixed salary, they were always changing. The inconveniencies arising from this state, determined the heritors to secure an assistant, by presenting him to the succession. To encourage a qualified person to accept, L. 10 Sterling is given by a Lady to the assistant, to continue during the life of the old schoolmaster; but on that account, the assistant is to teach a Sunday school. The pious and respectable benefactress, visits that school herself, and bestows suitable rewards upon such of the scholars, as shew a desire to profit by that useful institution; remembering well that it is written, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*"

*Roads and Bridges.*—The two great roads which pass through this parish, from the south and west, are in excellent condition, as are also the small bridges upon them. The principal heritor paid much attention to these matters, and is justly praised on that account. There is a remarkable bridge, called *Gannachie Bridge*, upon the west side of this parish. It is thrown across the Northesk river, consists of one arch, 52 feet over, stands on two tremendous rocks, and is justly admired as a singular curiosity, both in regard of its situation and construction. It is with pleasure

sure the writer hereof takes the opportunity, of making public the name and condition of the person, at whose expence that useful work was raised. James Black, who was tenant in the farm of Wood, and parish of Edzel, agreed with a mason for 300 merks Scotch, and to lay down all materials. James, was a very ingenious man, and built the parapet walls with his own hands. Though, from the difference of times, 300 merks Scotch, carries only a small found, it was a large sum for a tenant to give 60 years ago, and the deed deserves to be recorded. The bridge was built in 1732. Besides the above 300 merks, Mr Black left 200 merks to the poor of the parish of Fettercairn, and 50 merks for upholding the bridge. Both sums were left to the management of the kirk-session here; and from this circumstance, the incumbent thinks it proper to publish these good deeds, as worthy to be remembered and imitated.

*Antiquities.*—A mile west from Fettercairn, the foundation of a very large old building is still visible. It is upon the estate of Balbigno, the property of the Honourable Walter Ogilvy, Esq; of Clova. Tradition calls it *Fenella's Castle*, and the people believe it to have been her residence. If so, this is the place where Kenneth III. the thirtieth king of Scotland, was slain. The story of the brass statue, which threw out the arrows, and killed Kenneth, is often told. The fact, however, of the king's murder is certain. Crathilinthus, the son of Fenella, had been put to death by order of the king, for crimes which history relates, to have deserved that punishment. She bore Kenneth a deadly grudge on that account, and executed her horrid purpose in the castle near Fettercairn, in the year 994. The king's train coming after their royal master,  
and

and discovering his cruel fate, set fire to the building, and reduced it to ashes \*.

*Character.*—The people, here are not deficient in diligence, and their outward deportment to their superiors is decent and respectful. There are a few litigious people, as is the case among every multitude, but the inhabitants in general, are not inclined to law-suits. They give regular attendance upon public worship, on the Lord's day, and no doubt the example of their superiors, in rank and station, is useful in that respect. They, who cannot spare one day in seven, to the honour of their Redeemer, and to the care of their souls, must soon find, that the sinful cares of time, will usurp the regard due, to the more important concerns of eternity.

\* A mile to the east of this town, the ruins of a castle, where Kenneth is reported to have resided and occasionally lived, are visible. It is in the adjoining parish of Fordoun, and near to the remains of Kincardine, anciently the county town, where the Sheriff courts were held, till the year 1600, when they were removed by act of Parliament to Stonehaven. At this same Kincardine, the unfortunate Baliol, made his submission to Edward I. Some historians, who mention this matter, say, that it happened at Montrose; others, at Brechin. Sir David Dalrymple, in the 1st volume of his *Annals of Scotland*, informs us, that the resignation was made at Kincardine. The accuracy and candour of Lord Hailes deserve the highest confidence. He fixes the matter indisputably, by quoting the record itself, which is the best of all evidence \*. Sir David Dalrymple says, "The record bears, that Baliol made his submission at Kincardine on the 2d of July 1296;" and then he adds, "All the historians whom I have had occasion to consult, place this remarkable event on the 10th, and not on the 2d of July."—The place in the *Fœdera*, to which Lord Hailes refers, is in tom. 2. p. 718.

\* *Annals*, vol. 1. p. 291. *Note*.



## N U M B E R XXII.

## P A R I S H O F C A T H C A R T,

(COUNTIES OF RENFREW and LANARK.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID DOW.**Origin of the Name.*

**T**HIS parish evidently derives its name from the Cart or Kert, a considerable stream which takes its course through it, from S. to N. or N. W. dividing it nearly into two equal parts. In old papers it is called *Kerkert* and *Ketbkert*, but how far these names are descriptive of any circumstances peculiar to this water, or the grounds in the neighbourhood, we are not sufficiently acquainted with the ancient language of the country, with certainty to determine. As a parish, it is of considerable antiquity, as far back as *anno 1160*, when Walter, Lord High Steward of Scotland, founded the monastery of Paisley, the kirk of Cathcart and its pertinents, (of which it would appear he had then been the proprietor), are expressly mentioned as part of the donation originally appropriated to that pious use. It continued to depend on the monks of Paisley, from that time to the Reformation, and contributed its share to support the splendour and dignity of that powerful and opulent abbacy. It also gives both name and title to the very ancient and noble family of Cathcart. There are  
authentic

authentic records, extending to a very remote period, to shew, that the ancestors of this family were formerly persons of very great consequence and authority in the neighbourhood, and it is probable that the greatest part of the parish was their property; but, being involved in difficulties by the troubles of the country, (in which their loyalty and public spirit always led them to take a distinguished share), about the year 1546, this, their ancient hereditary estate, was alienated by Alan, the third Lord Cathcart; since which time they have had no footing whatever in the parish.

*Situation, Extent, &c.*—It lies partly in Renfrew, and partly in Lanarkshire, the much greater proportion of it belonging to the former. The disjunction of a considerable part of that division, of it which belongs to Lanark, including the lands of Dripps, took place *A. D.* 1725, by an amicable concert of all the parties concerned; to which the Lords Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, and Valuation of Teinds, gave their sanction. It was, however, expressly provided, that no matter of a civil nature should be affected by this measure. The object of it was solely to accommodate the inhabitants of these lands in church privileges, being much more contiguous to Carmunnock than their own parish church. The church of Cathcart is situated within the sheriffdom of Renfrew, belongs to the presbytery of Glasgow, and the provincial Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The extent of the parish, from N. to S. (the direction in which it stretches to the greatest length), is about 4 miles; and, if the disjoined part be included, it is upwards of 6, and in no place above 2 miles in breadth. Its mean breadth may be about a mile and a half. It lies in a south-west direction from Glasgow, the centre of the parish being two miles distant from the suburbs of that city, and is distant, on the other

VOL. V.    U n    hand,

hand, 19 miles from Kilmarnock, the great road to Ayrshire, by that town, running directly through the parish. It may contain about 3000 Scotch acres, including the lands of Dripps above mentioned, and is almost wholly arable, except some few spots, upon the steep banks of the Cart, to which the plough cannot have access. The district is rich and fertile above many in the neighbourhood, and pours in its surplus stores, to supply the demands of the populous commercial city of Glasgow. On entering the parish from Glasgow, strangers have been much pleased with the face of the country. Instead of a dull uniform level, as is the case with the most fertile tracts of Scotland, the surface is remarkably diversified with hill and dale. The hills do not rise in ridges, but are altogether separate and distinct from each other, and present to the eye those alternate risings and falls, which constitute so material a part of picturesque beauty. The hills, in the northern extremity of the parish, never attain to such a height, or ascend with such steepness, as to prevent them from being cultivated to the top; and their sloping sides are, in their season, always covered with the richest crops of grass and corn. Through these hills, the Cart winds its way in a very irregular course, sometimes disappearing altogether, by the steepness of its banks, and again spreading itself out into the plain. On advancing farther into the parish, in the same direction, a succession of hills of greater height, and less pleasing aspect, takes place, and the land becomes gradually more bleak and barren. Great part of it, however, is raised but little above the level of the sea, which is known by its being almost on the same plain with Glasgow, to which the tide regularly ebbs and flows.

*Soil and Rent.*—Small as the parish is, it is distinguished by a great variety of soil and exposure. In general, the lower parts of the parish are light and sandy. The central parts

parts consist of deep rich loam, and the higher grounds are clay, in many places thinly spread over a till bottom. On the rising grounds, complaints are made, of the want of springs, to supply the inhabitants with water. The wells, that are dug, never fail to become dry in summer. This seems to be owing to the peculiar construction of the hills above mentioned, and to the clay soil, which retains the water on the surface. From the circumstances above stated, a great inequality takes place, in the value of the lands. The fields in the lower parts of the parish, although adjacent to Glasgow, to which they send their produce, and thence receive their manure at an easy rate, do not rent so high, as the lands at a greater distance; and again, the farms in the upper part of the parish, having to struggle, both with the disadvantage of their greater distance from markets, and an inferior soil, are, in comparison, rented very low. While some farms, are let as high, as L. 3 *per* acre, others, fall below 7s. This inequality cannot altogether be ascribed, to the difference of the soil; and, as there are two turnpike roads, which are always kept in excellent repair, leading through the parish, in convenient directions to Glasgow, the distance from the market, in any part of it, cannot be complained of. It must be allowed, therefore, that the grounds in the upper part of the parish, till of late, have been much neglected. As the gentleman, to whom the greater part of them belong, has come to reside in the parish, he will naturally be led, to take such measures, as will render them more valuable, both to himself and to the community. The vicinity of such a rich and industrious city, as Glasgow, should give a powerful spring to the exertions of every landholder in its neighbourhood, who may be fully assured, that the produce of their estates, however much increased, either in quantity or quality, will immediately be sold to the best advantage. One gentleman in this parish, by  
adopting

adopting a very spirited mode of improvement, has converted a piece of ground, which, till he gained possession of it, lay almost wild and uncultivated, into rich pasture, for which he receives annually L. 2, 5s. *per* acre, without the liberty of tillage; and his success may encourage others, who have it in their power, to follow his example. Upon the whole, it must be allowed, that the value of this parish has increased in a very rapid progress. Its valuation in Scotch money is L. 3167. In 1771, when the late minister applied for an augmentation of stipend, the stock and teind were found to amount to no more than L. 1850 Sterling, and now the rental is above L. 3400, exclusive of minister's stipend, cess, and school salary. This rise in its value, must be accounted for, by the increased price, of all the different articles, produced by the ground, (of which Cathcart, from its vicinity to Glasgow, is in a situation fully to avail itself), as well as from a more improved mode of agriculture.

*Business.*—This parish may be considered almost entirely as an *agricultural* district. While the manufactures, of Paisley and Glasgow, have diffused themselves through all the neighbouring parishes, to a much greater distance, they have as yet made but inconsiderable progress in Cathcart. How long this may be the case, it is difficult to determine. Indeed, manufacturers have little encouragement to settle here, from the hopes of finding a cheaper market; as every article of provision sells as high as in Glasgow, with the additional expence, of sending to that town, for those necessaries which the parish cannot afford. There is neither butcher, brewer, nor baker, within its bounds: At the same time the parish abounds with many other articles, essentially necessary to the manufacturer, and without which indeed, he cannot go to work; such as coal, lime and water. Upon the Cart, there are many favourable situations  
for

for erecting machinery for cotton spinning ; it is not to be expected, that they will much longer remain unoccupied. Indeed, we believe, proposals have already been made, by one of the chief adventurers in that business, for erecting a work of this kind. How far such works may ultimately prove beneficial to the persons immediately concerned, time alone can determine ; but persons living in the neighbourhood have no great reason to wish for their establishment, as, by all accounts, they bring along with them, many causes of disturbance, and many other inconveniences.

*Cultivation.*—Agriculture, being the prevailing business in the parish, the inhabitants have chiefly directed their attention to it. Although few of them understand its scientific principles, yet it is believed, that their own sagacity, has led them to adopt such a method, as, upon the whole, is most beneficial to themselves. Farming, has been too long practised and understood here, for its followers to stand upon the antiquated ceremony, of only beginning to plow at a certain day in the year. In this instance, prejudice and superstition have yielded to reason and self-interest. Plowing is carried on through the whole year, and the farmer begins to sow, whenever circumstances permit. The people have found, by experience, that a judicious system of husbandry does not admit any cessation of labour, but that there are ways, in which they may constantly convert their own and their horses work, to a very good account, in the business of their farms. The farms, in general, are small, being rather under, than above 50 acres ; and, in few instances, do they amount to 100. Of these, in the best cultivated parts of the parish, they plow a half, and frequently two thirds. As this repeated cropping, would, in time, exhaust the productive powers of the very best ground, the farmers make a liberal use of Glasgow dung, for which their vicinity to that town

town affords them a great advantage. This, of all others, is found to be the most permanent and substantial manure. Lime, although it is to be met with every where throughout the parish, has, especially of late, been but sparingly used. Nay, there are farms in this parish, which, by being constantly limed, without receiving any other manure, have become altogether barren. Lime acts upon the soil, as a powerful stimulant, and brings forth whatever nourishment it has. Unless, therefore, its vegetative powers, be seasonably restored, by some other species of manure, the ground may, and, in many cases, actually has been reduced to a *caput mortuum*.

*Produce.*—Summer fallowing is not much practised. Instead of this, the ground is prepared for potatoes, by giving it repeated plowings, and laying upon it from 40 to 60 carts *per* acre, of the manure above mentioned. Each cart, costs from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. before it is laid upon the field. The potatoes being planted in drills, are first cleaned with the hand hoe, when beginning to appear above the ground, after which, (as their perfection, it would appear, in a great measure, depends much upon their being taken the best care of when young, till they arrive at a certain length,) *they are repeatedly dressed with a small single-horse plough.* The profit arising from this crop, properly managed, is so great, as scarcely to be credited in places less favourably situated. L. 10, L. 15, and even L. 20 *per* acre, have been received for them, before they have been dug up. It must be owned, indeed, that nothing but such a market as Glasgow, to which a bulky article like this can be transported, and immediately sold, could enable the farmer to derive so much profit. But the advantage of this management does not end here. After the potatoes are taken up, wheat is sown, and we have scarcely known an instance, when

when the ground has been thus properly prepared, that the result has not been a very abundant crop. There may be from 100 to 150 acres of wheat, sown annually in this way, the produce of which is, from 1000 to 1200 bolls. Such, either is the richness of the soil, in some parts of this parish, or the advantage of this mode of management, that an exceeding good crop of oats, has been obtained after the wheat, without any interval or additional manure. After this, the ground is either allowed to rest some time, or the same process is repeated without intermission. This is pretty much the practice, pursued by the farmer, in the lower parts of the parish, which includes by far its most fertile and populous division. Those, also, in the immediate neighbourhood of Glasgow, make a good deal by sending in their milk as it comes from the cow. The lands, at a greater distance from town, and those of an inferior quality, are, in general, plowed to the extent of one third, and nothing is raised in them but oats, and a little barley. In these places, the farmer chiefly depends upon the produce of his dairy. Here, as well as in the parishes at a greater distance in the same direction, the country people find great advantage in sending their butter-milk to Glasgow, during the summer season, and it proves a cheap and wholesome beverage, to the lower classes of the inhabitants, of that great and populous city.

*Manufactures.*—Although the bulk of the inhabitants, as above stated, are employed in husbandry, yet there are some persons of other occupations among them. At present, there are 30 looms for weaving in the parish, which chiefly find employment from the manufacturers of Glasgow.—A considerable bleachfield was occupied for some time, by a Company in Glasgow, who carry on the manufacture of stockings to a great extent. But it being complained



plained of by them, that they could not clear their goods, or bring them to such a degree of whiteness as they wished, owing to the water being so often turbid, they shifted their station to the parish of Neilston. Since this change took place, the bleaching carried on by their successors, has been but in a languishing state, and we believe is now entirely given up. If this be an incurable defect in the water of Cart, it accounts for its having been so little occupied for uses of this kind; as otherwise, there are certainly very favourable situations in the parish, for prosecuting the business of bleaching.—The paper manufacture, too, was very early attempted here. One Nicholas Deshan, a paper-maker, who, we are told, was driven from France, his native country, in consequence of the revocation of the edict of Nantz, took refuge, and established his business, in this parish, about the end of the last century. Having connected himself with an opulent family here, they conjunctly erected very large buildings for carrying on the paper manufacture. His descendants continued to make paper till very lately; but not finding it a profitable business, the present proprietor of these buildings, has converted them into a snuff manufacture, which yields him a more certain and permanent profit.—Higher up the stream, a paper work is still carried on. In this business a considerable stock is engaged, and 8 men usually find employment. Here lapping paper, and only the coarser kinds of writing paper, are manufactured. It would appear, that the same defect, which is complained of in the bleaching business, prevents them also from carrying this manufacture, to any considerable perfection or extent.

*Mills.*—In the parish there are two corn-mills, besides one for the lands of Dripps above mentioned. Two of these, are kept up by the services, which the tenants in the neighbourhood

neighbourhood are bound to perform, who are obliged to pay a considerable sum annually, under the name of mulcture. The other depends, for its support, upon the employment which it may occasionally meet with. It is well known, that wherever such servitudes are suffered to exist, they are necessarily attended with much trouble and inconvenience, and lay the foundation for many tedious and expensive litigations. A single doubt, therefore, cannot be entertained, but it would be for the good of the country, to abolish them altogether, by buying them off, at a reasonable conversion; so that the farmer might bring his grain, to any mill he pleases, and should only pay a sum adequate to the improvement which it receives.

*Fish.*—Various causes have contributed to diminish the quantity of trouts in the Cart, which, it is said, once, greatly abounded with them. Of these, the use of lime for manure, but especially the crowds of people, who, in such a neighbourhood as this, incessantly harass and persecute them, are the chief. Still, however, persons skilled in angling, and who have time and patience to follow it, are sometimes successful. Of eels, at all times, there is to be had a plentiful store.

*Minerals.*—In the parish there are four tacksmen of lime quarries, who usually employ 16 men, and who may put out yearly 6000 carts of burned lime, or lime in the shells, as it is called. This is mostly sent in to Glasgow for building, or carried away by the farmers in the neighbouring parishes, for manure. The price of each is 3 s., of which  $3\frac{1}{2}$  is paid to the proprietor, for lordship and surface damages. Each cart contains 5 bolls, Winchester measure, of slaked lime. These seams of lime, are wrought under ground, in the manner of a coal-mine, the inclination

of the surface, or *dip*, as it is called, being one ell in five; so that from the increasing labour, and expence of putting out the stone, they must soon be obliged to desist. But, it is said, there is no scarcity of lime in other parts of the parish, which may be wrought more easily. Coal is also found in all the different parts of the parish from N. to S. The coal under the lands of Corsehill, forms a part of the great Govan coal-work, which furnishes a considerable part of the fuel consumed in Glasgow, and that populous neighbourhood; besides exporting large quantities, by the river Clyde, to remote countries. This work, however, is at present carried on within the parish of Govan. In the southern part of the parish, the coal is also wrought, but upon a small scale, and what is put out, is chiefly used for the smithy, or for burning lime. It would appear, that hitherto, it has only been the crop coal, which has been wrought in these places. There is little reason to doubt, but upon sinking deeper, other seams of coal, of greater thickness and value, might be found. But these will remain as magazines, to supply the demand of the manufacturing city of Glasgow, when other coals, more contiguous, are exhausted.—It has also been affirmed, that iron-stone is to be found in the parish; although, from the great quantity of this substance to be met with every where, there is little reason to expect that it will soon turn out to any account.—The curious and inquisitive have found many uncommon minerals and fossils, in the channel of the Cart, with which they have amused themselves. There is a stream which falls into it, a little way above the bridge, which, it would appear, has the power of petrifying vegetable substances: Pieces of wood and moss, completely converted into stone, have been picked up, bearing all the marks of their former texture and organization. Spars and chrysalizations,

of

of very curious form and appearance, have also been found.

*Plants and Woods.*—The banks of the Cart, have long been resorted to, by the botanical student. Such is the warmth and shelter, in some of these sequestered spots, that almost a perpetual verdure is to be found. Here, specimens of most of those plants, which the clearing the grounds of the woods, with which they were originally covered, have banished from the country, still shoot up in their native luxuriance and vigour. Of these, we could easily produce a catalogue, but we are conscious that there are none, but what are sufficiently known to the lovers of botany, and to others, their bare names will afford but little entertainment. It is much to be regretted, that such indiscriminate havock, should have been made of the original plantations of the country. By the war, which, for ages past, has been waged against the forests of Scotland, they are now indeed reduced within very narrow limits; and the small remnants, which have been fortunately left, in glens and on the steep banks of rivers, more from negligence than design, are dwindling fast away. Hence we will not only be deprived of many of those beauties, which nature, in its rude forms, presents to the view of every person of taste and discernment; but also many of those humble plants, which grew up under their shelter, will only be known by their names. The boar, the wolf, and even the deer, to whom these woods proved a defence, are now no more to be found in this country; and it is to be feared, that their more harmless vegetable inhabitants, will also share the same fate. The complaint of a late celebrated scholar and moralist, although no favourite of the inhabitants of this country, is but too well founded, when he reflects upon the scarcity of trees in Scotland. They  
are

are the mantle, which nature, with pious care, hath provided, to cover the nakedness of the earth; and Scotland, of all other countries, should have been cautious in destroying so grateful a covering, as it affords but few beauties to compensate for its loss\*.

*Langside.*—In this parish, lies the field of Langside, memorable for being the scene of the last and decisive effort, of the unfortunate Mary, to regain her crown and authority. The circumstances which led to this battle; the form and manner of the engagement; and the consequences resulting from it, are too well known, to require any illustration from an account of this kind. The place where this affair was decided, is an eminence upon the northern extremity of the parish. The ground gradually rises to a considerable height on the S. and E. sides, but descends pretty rapidly towards the N. and W. Hence, it is easy of access in the first of these directions, but on the other, is steep and difficult. On the summit, and rather

\* There are evidences every where, that this parish, at no very remote period, was in a great measure, or almost wholly, covered with wood. This affords the means of accounting, for many of the most common names of places in the parish. Thus, Aikenhead, which is the residence of the patron of the parish. Williamwood is the house of another very considerable heritor. Hagton-hill, Hagginslaw, and Woodside, are names of farms evidently bearing a relation to circumstances of this kind. In many places these woods have been so recently cut down, that the roots still retain vegetation; and when a field is allowed to rest any time, shoots of birch, hazle, and even oak, spring up. At present, however, there are very small remains of these woods, except upon the inaccessible banks of the Cart, above mentioned, and about 10 acres on the west-side of Langside hill, which the proprietor cuts periodically, in the manner practised in the more extensive forests in the Highlands. In the neighbouring parish of Eastwood, there are more considerable remains of the natural wood of the country.

ther inclining to the N. side of the hill, there is a circular or elliptical inclosure, about 360 feet in circumference, which, it would appear, had been a small Roman encampment. By most of the historians, and by the editors of Camden's Antiquities, it is mentioned as a place of this kind. There are not wanting, in this neighbourhood, similar military stations of the Romans. As they appear to have been too small, for an ordinary encampment, it is probable, that they were the *castra exploratorum*, or stations for centinels. In this respect, the place here mentioned, is extremely suitable. From it, an extensive view of the counties of Dumbarton and Argyle, which were beyond the limits of the Roman province, presents itself to the eye. Here then, a detachment of Roman troops, might discern the first movements of our rude ancestors, and take measures to repel their irruptions. By the common people in this country, the place is called Queen Mary's camp. But, it is well known, that no encampment was made by either party, in this more recent period of history. Murray, the regent, having drawn his forces from Glasgow, on the same day in which the engagement happened, made a stand here, in order to intercept the Queen, in her progress to Dumbarton, when a skirmish ensued; the Queen's party was routed, and a considerable number of her friends killed; but many more were taken prisoners in the pursuit. A place is yet pointed out, upon an opposite eminence, fully in the view of the field now described, and near the old castle of Cathcart\*, where Mary stood until the

\* The castle of Cathcart is now a ruin. From its remains, it appears to have been a very strong building. It stands upon one of the most commanding situations in the country, and has two of its sides completely defended by the Cart, to which there is almost a perpendicular descent of a tremendous height. The access to it on the other side, except by

the affair was decided. A hawthorn bush, commonly known here by the name of *Queen Mary's thorn*, marked out the spot, till it decayed through age; but another has lately been planted in its place by the late James Hill, Esq; proprietor of the ground, to preserve the remembrance of these interesting circumstances.

*Heritors and Population.*—There are 17 heritors at present in the parish, who rank upon the cels roll of the shire,  
of

a narrow entry, which might have been secured by a ditch and draw-bridge, is pretty steep and difficult; so that in times when the art of attack was not so well understood, it might have made a considerable defence. The square tower, of which the original building consisted, appears to have had annexed to it, a more modern house, which is now completely removed. The castle, was within these 50 years inhabited, but was given up by its proprietor to be demolished, upon removing to another dwelling. The materials were sold to a tradesman in Glasgow, who hoped thereby to enrich himself. Having taken off the roof, he was proceeding with the rest of the building, when he found himself obliged to stop by the resistance he met with, from the strength and thickness of the walls. Having been left since that time in a dismantled state, it has scarcely suffered any farther injury from the influence of the weather. Few parishes have experienced such a frequent change of proprietors. Two considerable families sprung up immediately after the removal of the Lords of Cathcart. The Semples of Cathcart descended from the Lords of Semple, and the Blairs of Boghen, who were also Blairs of Blair, in Ayrshire. Their estates again, have long ago been parcelled out, among many different proprietors, who are continually alienating their lands. In such a neighbourhood, this is naturally to be expected. Some persons wish to sell their lands, and try their fortune in trade; others again, from the fruits of their industry, are enabled to purchase, and to retire to the country. This is attended with a double advantage to the community. The prospect of obtaining an independent situation in the country, gives a more vigorous spring to the exertions of the man of business, while the lands benefiting by the renewed efforts of the succeeding proprietors, attain to a higher state of cultivation and improvement. Hence we may safely conclude, that whatever has a tendency to obstruct the free sale and disposal of landed property, especially in commercial countries, ought to be removed.

of whom only 6 are resident. There are some feuers also. The general state of the population may be known by the following table.

POPULATION TABLE of the PARISH of CATHCART.

Population in 1791,	-	697	Seceders of various denomi-	
———— in 1755,	-	499	nations,	- - 58
		—	Residing heritors,	- - 6
Increase,	-	198	Minister,	- - 1
			Schoolmaster,	- - 1
Males,	-	370	Farmers,	- - 29
Females,	-	327	Weavers,	- - 10
Persons under 16,	-	247	Masons and Wrights,	- - 3
———— between 16 & 60,	-	415	Smiths,	- - 3
———— aged 60 & upwards,	-	35	Paper makers,	- - 5
Males under 16,	-	140	Millers,	- - 2
Females under 16,	-	107	Shoemakers,	- - 4
Males between 16 & 60,	-	211	Tailors,	- - 2
Females between ditto,	-	204	Lime quarriers,	- - 20
Males, 60 & upwards,	-	20	Day labourers,	- - 35
Females, ditto & ditto,	-	15	Poor,	- - 16
Number of families,	-	139	Horses,	- - 125
Families belonging to the E-			Milk cows,	- - 286
stablished Church,	-	81		

Besides the above, there are in the lands of Dripps, which anciently were included in this parish, 12 families, consisting of 73 persons, all of whom are employed in cultivating the ground\*.

*List*

\* It would appear, on the whole, that the population of this parish is not materially different from what it was 100 years ago. This is in some measure ascertained, by a very correct survey which was made of it, as well as of the other parishes in the county of Renfrew, in 1696, for the purpose of a general taxation of the inhabitants, according to their circumstances. The original record is now in the hands of the Rev. Mr Boog of Paisley, and has been carefully examined by the author of this account. The decrease, occasioned by the conversion of small farms into  
into



*List of Births, Marriages, and Burials for 10 years,  
preceding the current year 1792.*

A. D.	Born.	Married.	Died.
1782	20	4	9
1783	15	8	5
1784	14	6	7
1785	15	5	16
1786	10	9	9
1787	21	6	14
1788	16	4	13
1789	15	11	15
1790	20	7	10
1791	12	11	25
	158	71	123

Of the deaths in the above period, 7 died before the first month; 10 between 1 and 6 months; 9 between 6 and 12 months; 26 between 1 and 5 years of age; 8 between 5 and 10; 10 between 10 and 20; 10 between 20 and 30; 8 between 30 and 40; 3 between 40 and 50; 8 between 50 and 60; 8 between 60 and 70; 11 between 70 and 80: and 4, aged 80 and upwards\*. A register of births,

into larger ones, and the dismissal of that description of peasantry called *cotters*, who were retained as assistants to the more considerable farmers, is more than balanced by an additional number of tradesmen and manufacturers. In the parish, there are, properly speaking, three villages, Cathcart, Langside, and Westfield, although the last only consists of a very few houses. Langside, from the number of ruinous dwellings, seems once to have been, a more considerable place, than it is at present, but in none of these does there seem to be any tendency to increase.

\* The diseases most fatal to the inhabitants of this part of the country seem to be the small-pox among the children, and fevers with grown up people. The prejudices against inoculation are so deeply rooted, that notwithstanding the long experience of its efficacy, it has as yet made  
but

births, marriages, and deaths, has been regularly kept in the parish from the beginning of the present century. Of late, indeed, some degree of irregularity is like to ensue, from the reluctance discovered by dissenters to give in their names. It is difficult to convince these people, that many important consequences to their own interest, may be promoted by such a practice. We have no records of the Session, farther back than the Revolution.

*Church, &c.*—The present parish church was rebuilt, A. D. 1744, since which time, it has met with several repairs, and is now, compared with other country kirks, in tolerable good order. The original structure of the manse is very old. From time to time, it has received many additions and repairs, but so little profit is there in patching up an old building, that, although much money has been expended, both by the heritors and the possessor, it is far from being complete or comfortable. The stipend annexed to this cure, at present, is 8 chalders of victual, of which there are 108 bolls of meal, and 20 bolls of bear paid in kind; with L. 90 Scotch from the vicarage teinds, and an allowance of L. 40 Scotch for communion elements. The glebe scarcely amounts to 4 acres.

VOL. V.

Y y

*School*

but small progress. This terrible malady often returns, and sweeps away the rising hopes of their families, and yet they will not have recourse to such an obvious method of mitigating its severity. No, their religious scruples, in this matter, will not yield to the influence of reason and experience. The fever most prevalent here is the slow nervous kind, and is most frequent after seed time and harvest, especially in cold rainy seasons. It seems to be more immediately brought on by lowness of spirits, occasioned by excessive fatigue, without proper food or accommodation, to prevent its bad effects. To this we may add, that the practice of crowding numbers together in low damp houses, contributes not a little, both to increase its severity, to the person immediately affected, and to spread it more widely through the neighbourhood.

*School and Poor.*—There is but one schoolmaster in the parish. Indeed, there is employment only for one. In the parish school, there may be from 60 to 80 scholars, who are taught reading, English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic and Book-keeping. It is seldom, that a classical education is required, and parents, whose circumstances enable them to procure it for their children, repair to Glasgow. The school salary is small, only 120 merks Scotch, but, as the wages in this situation are tolerably good, the schoolmaster is able to make a decent livelihood.—The weekly collections, with the interest of L. 200 Sterling, saved in former times, is at present sufficient for supplying the exigencies of the poor of this parish. Unless a very great change of circumstances takes place, there will be no necessity for having recourse to a general assessment. It should be the study of all, who have it in their power, by their voluntary contributions, to prevent that necessity, and to remove it to as great a distance as possible. In England, the poor's rates are complained of, as an intolerable burden, nor does it appear, that the indigent meet with that effectual assistance and relief, which arises from the more simple and frugal plan adopted in this country. The weekly collections, with the interest above mentioned, amount to about L. 25 Sterling a-year, which is all dispersed monthly, in small sums, from 2 s. to 5 s. among the persons upon the poor's roll, according to their necessities. Ten persons stately receive assistance in this way, besides relief, occasionally given, to poor house-holders. The expence of living, is as high here, as any where in Scotland; but this is compensated to the labouring part of the inhabitants, by the great plenty of money occasioned by the manufactures, and the high prices which they receive, for every species of work they can perform.

*Probable*

*Probable Improvements.*—With regard to the means by which the situation of the inhabitants of this district may be improved, we shall confine our attention to those who are employed in labouring the ground, who are the most numerous. The misfortune of the tenantry here, as well as in many other parts of the country, is, that having no capital, they possess not the means of bringing their farms into that complete state of improvement, of which, we apprehend, they are capable. The produce is barely sufficient for supplying the demands of each season; for paying their rents, and procuring for their families the necessaries of life; for, to luxuries, or even conveniences, they must not pretend to aspire. Beginning in poverty and depression, they must necessarily remain so, and, at the end of their lease, their land returns into the hands of the proprietor in no better, but, frequently, in a worse condition than it was before. It ought, therefore, to be the study of country gentlemen, either to look out for tenants who have a stock, and to give them sufficient encouragement, to employ it in meliorating their lands, or previously to put them into such a situation, that they may reasonably expect an advanced rent. It is apprehended, that whatever expence, (especially in such a situation as this,) might thereby be incurred, would turn out to good account. One very obvious improvement, required in this country, is building better houses to the tenants, in which there is still a very lamentable deficiency. The contrast in this respect, between this class of men, and those employed in the manufactures, must strike every observer. Besides the tendency, which this improvement would have, to preserve the health of the inhabitants, and to enable them better to endure the fatigues of their occupation, it would raise their spirits, place them upon a more respectable

able footing, and make them prosecute, with greater ardour and assiduity, the improvement of the ground.

*Manners and Character.*—The manners and character of the people here, as well as in all other parishes, are various. It would be doing injustice to many individuals of every station, not to make many favourable exceptions; but, at the same time, it must be acknowledged, that the neighbourhood of so great a city as Glasgow, has, perhaps unavoidably, a very pernicious influence on the morals of the inhabitants. The frequency of their communication, with that town, has extended their knowledge, at the expence of their virtue; and they have acquired a taste for many of those vices, which flourish luxuriantly in so rank a soil. Conversing, not with the moderate and rational part of the citizens, but with the violent and intemperate, they imbibe their notions, which they transplant with them into the country, greatly to the annoyance of their more peaceable neighbours. Thus, there is reason to lament the decline of that primitive innocence, and simplicity of manners and character, by which people, living in more remote situations of the country, are happily distinguished.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF LOCHLEE,

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN PIRIE.*

---

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**L** OCHLEE is evidently derived from a loch situated in a deep bottom, almost surrounded with steep and high hills; at the east end of which, the parish church stands.—The parish is situated in the north corner of Forfarshire, in the presbytery of Brechin, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is surrounded with high hills, part of the Grampians, a narrow opening at the east end excepted, through which the river North Esk passes to the low country; and it is nearly intersected in two or three places by hills. It is about 12 miles long from E. to W. and 6 miles broad from N. to S. if regard is had to its pasture grounds; and there are about 8 miles betwixt the most distant dwelling houses from E. to W. and 4 from N. to S.; it is nearly of the same breadth from end to end.

*Surface*

*Surface and Soil.*—The hills are for the most part steep, rocky on the sides, and covered with heath. There is nothing in the parish deserving the name of meadow ground, even the valleys being covered with heath, the grounds under tillage excepted, and a few spots of inconsiderable extent, producing bushes, *spratt* and bent, intermixed with other coarse grafs. The soil under culture, is thin and light, generally on a bottom of gravel, and in many places full of stones. The extent of the arable land is very inconsiderable, when compared with that of the whole parish, there being only a few small *stripes* under tillage, along the different branches of the river; and it does not appear practicable much to increase the quantity.

*Productions.*—The amount of grain produced, is very inconsiderable, and, at an average, does not support the inhabitants. This, in a great measure, is occasioned by an unfavourable climate. The ground being locked up with frost, or covered with snow, during the winter and great part of the spring season, it is commonly the 1st or 2d of April, before the tillage for the ensuing crop commences, a few farms in the east end of the parish excepted. The seed time being late, and generally very cold, the crop is oftentimes checked in the following September, by frost and unseasonable weather, before it has had time to come to maturity. The bear, if it escapes the September frost, is for the most part well filled; but the corn is often very unproductive, it being frequently as late as the middle of November before the harvest is concluded. In 1789, a great part of the grain remained in the fields, till the second week of December. Potatoes and turnips have lately been introduced, and if the climate would permit, these useful roots would thrive well.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate varies in different parts of the parish. Although much colder than in the low country, yet, in the east end of the parish, it is more temperate and warmer than in the west end, where the winter snow frequently lies upon the hills, until the end of May, and sometimes the middle of June. The air is reckoned healthy; the inhabitants are not subject to fevers of any kind, nor is there any other disease peculiar to the place. The ague never makes its appearance in any form, within the bounds of the parish, although that disease is common, in the adjoining parishes of Fettercairn and Edzell. In May 1782, after an exceeding cold and wet spring, the wind blowing generally from N. E. a fever made its appearance in the parish, which, in the space of 6 weeks, cut off 35 persons. It was attended with symptoms similar to what accompanies an inflammation of the Pleura: The persons affected had their spittle mixed with blood, within a few hours after the fever seized them; they felt a pain at or below their left pap; and died upon the 5th or 6th day. The pain, however, did not affect their breathing so much; nor did it feel so acute as is commonly the case in a pleuritic fever. The greater part of those who died, were 30 years of age and upwards; they were all above 18. Two only recovered of all that were seized. It is not remembered that a fever, similar to the above, has happened in the parish.

*Population.*—From an account taken in 1723, when Lochlee was disjoined from Lethnot, there appears then to have been, 400 examinable persons in the parish; in 1766, the number of souls in it amounted to 600; at present (1792) there are 178 men, 237 women, and 193 children below 12 years of age, making in all 608 souls. Although, from the above statement, it might be concluded, that



that the population has varied little or nothing since 1723; yet it appears, in fact, to have been a little on the increase; at least since 1766. The natives had formerly a strong attachment to the place, and seldom left the parish. Although the same attachment still continues, yet the price of labour in the low country has advanced so considerably, within the last 20 years, as to induce several of the young men to leave the parish; a circumstance, which will account for the great difference, betwixt the number of men and women at present residing in it. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 686 souls.

Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Parish since  
October 1. 1783.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Oct. 1. 1784	17	7	13
1785	17	6	12
1786	13	8	13
1787	14	6	11
1788	15	1	13
1789	20	6	9
1790	13	5	3
1791	12	2	8
1792	10	4	13

*Poor.*—The number of poor upon the parish roll, does not often amount to 12. The interest of a small fund, together with the weekly collections, amounting together to about L. 6 Sterling yearly, is divided among them; and if at any time, one or more are bed-ridden, it is customary to hang up a bag in the mill for them, into which the tenants put a handful of meal, when they grind their corn. There are no travelling beggars, belonging to the parish, and very few pass through it at any time, except in the months  
of

of June and July. At that season 120 and upwards, traverse yearly, begging wool; of whom, many seem to be real objects of charity, but numbers of them appear to be of a different description. They come from Dundee, Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, Stonehaven and Aberdeen, for the above purpose.

*Rent, Proprietor, &c.*—The yearly rent of the parish in 1714, amounted to L. 218; 39 wedders, at 3 s. 4 d. a-head; 31 stone and 10 lb. of butter, at 4 d. the lb; and 46 dozen and 2 poultry, at 3 s. 4 d. the dozen; the tenants paying, every fifth year, the double of the money rent: By adding a fifth of the money rent, and taking the value of the wedders, butter and poultry, in cash, the yearly rent of the parish in 1714, amounted to L. 284 : 4 : 6 $\frac{2}{3}$  Sterling. The present rent (1792) is L. 385, 12 s. Sterling. From time immemorial, the whole parish belonged to one heritor. For some centuries before 1714, the proprietor's family name was Lindsay. His mansion-house, called Invermark, a place about half a mile from the church, continued to be the ordinary place of his residence, until he married the heiress of Edzell, which happened at least 200 years ago, when he removed to the castle of Edzell. The walls of Invermark are still entire. In 1714, David Lindsay, the last proprietor of that name, sold both Lochlee and Edzell, to the Earl of Panmure. The Honourable William Maule of Panmure, is the present proprietor of the parish.

*Tradesmen.*—There are 4 wrights, 4 tailors, 3 weavers, 2 smiths, and one shoemaker in the parish. The wrights and smiths are but occasionally employed, and therefore have time to attend to small crofts of land, a few black cattle and sheep. There is nothing but coarse woollen cloth

and some sheeting manufactured; but these articles afford constant work for the weavers. The inhabitants have been long in the practice of wearing shoes made of coarse leather, which go by the name of Forfar brogues, or black leather shoes; the shoemaker, therefore, is able to accomplish all the demands made upon him in his line, as these black leather shoes are to be had in Brechin and Forfar, and in most of the markets in the neighbourhood. A day-labourer receives 6 d. Sterling, and his meat *per* day, or 9 d. without victuals. In 1772, a day-labourer received 4 d. and his meat; a wright receives 8 d. and his meat; and a tailor 6 d. and his meat *per* day. In 1772, a man servant's wages for the half year was from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. Sterling, with pasture for a score of sheep; his fee for the half year is now from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3 Sterling.

*Rivers, Loch, and Fish.*—The principal branches of the river North Esk, which falls into the sea about 2 miles N. E. from Montrose, take their rise in the parish; these are the waters of Lee, of Mark, and of Tarf. The water of Lee passes through the loch, from whence the parish takes the designation of Lochlee.—Lochlee abounds with trouts, eels, and char. The trouts are generally of a large size, but very poor, not only in the loch, but also in the water of Lee, while it runs separately from the water of Mark; the trouts in Mark and Tarf are clear and fat, but not so big as in Lee. The loch is a mile long, and about the fifth part of a mile broad.

*Sheep, &c.*—There are 9200 sheep. lambs included, 130 goats, 192 horses, and about 600 black cattle in the parish. The horses and black cattle are small. About 6000 of the sheep are of the black faced kind; above 2000 are of a crossed breed, obtained by keeping black faced rams with ewes  
of

of the white breed; the remainder are reckoned white sheep. It is believed, however, that, by not attending to the rams in the proper season, the true breed of white sheep is entirely gone. The first of the black faced sheep were brought into the parish about 30 years ago. Before that period, three glens in the west end of the parish, viz. Unich, Mark, and Lee, extending to several square miles, were set apart for the pasture of black cattle during the summer. Unich is still employed for that purpose, and had in it, during the months of June, July and August last, upwards of 300 black cattle, for which the glen-keeper received about 1s. 6 d. Sterling *per* head. The other two glens are now chiefly employed in the pasture of sheep. There are about 1000 black faced lambs reared in the parish yearly. The remainder are bought, either in lambs, from L. 5, to L. 5, 10s. the score, or in hogs, from L. 9, to L. 10 the score, but chiefly in hogs, in regard many of the bought lambs die in the autumn, of the sickness. The wool of the black faced sheep is very coarse, and is sold at different prices, according to the manner in which it is treated; a considerable quantity of it is sold unwashed, for about 8s. the stone, part of it is washed, but very indifferently, viz. by driving the sheep three or four times through a pool of water, and sells at about 10s. the stone; what is cleansed by hand washing sells at about 12s. the stone. The tenants are unanimously of opinion, that the pasture has an influence upon the quality of the wool. Perhaps, it might be proper also to take the climate into the account. The west end of the parish, where the greater part of the black faced sheep pasture, is very cold, and in the winter much exposed to storm. The crossed breed and white sheep, are all brought up in the parish, the wool of the latter sells at 16s. the stone; and, in a few farms in the east end, where great attention is paid to the sheep, it sells from 1s. 2 d. to 1s. 3 d. the pound. Some of  
the

the old people remember the time, when wool from this parish, was sold in Aberdeen, at 30 s. Sterling the stone. Smearing with tar and butter, is not much practised, except when the scab is suspected; many of the lambs, are, in the autumn, smeared with tobacco juice, mixed with black soap, and a little stale urine, allowing about four pounds of soap to twenty pints of tobacco juice. The tobacco juice effectually kills the vermin.

*Wild Animals.*—There are many foxes in the parish; they commit great depredations among the young sheep. Although the parish is at a considerable expence yearly, in paying a fox-hunter, there are so many rocks and large cairns, where the foxes find shelter, that it appears scarcely practicable to extirpate these animals by hunting. A few of them are poisoned in the winter season, by dragging a piece of salted fish well spiced with powdered *nux vomica*, along a hill side, and leaving it near water. If the fox comes upon the tract, he soon finds the bait, eats it, drinks and expires instantly. The only difficulty lies in finding open water in time of a severe storm, and without this, the *nux vomica* does not kill. If he does not drink immediately after eating, he commonly escapes by throwing it up. Arsenic would, no doubt, prove an effectual poison with or without water; but as the inhabitants are very inattentive, it might be dangerous to use it. There are many wild cats also in the rocks and cairns, but they do little or no hurt among the sheep. There are plenty of white hares in the hills, and several deers, and a few roebucks traverse the glens. The rocks abound with eagles and hawks, and the hills with moor fowl. There are but few partridges in the parish.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Until 1764, there were no roads within the parish fit for wheel-carriages, since that time the inhabitants have, by statute labour, made a tolerable cart road  
road

road from the east end of the parish to the westmost dwelling house in it. The only place of access for wheel carriages is at the east end; and, it is probable, this will always continue to be the case, the surrounding and steep hills, in every other quarter, rendering it difficult to make a cart road to Glenmuick, Glentamir, Navar or Clova; and the little intercourse with these places rendering it unnecessary. Many of the tenants have also made private cart roads for their own convenience, so that carts are now much used. Before 1764, there were no carts in the parish. There are 3 stone bridges, one upon Tarf, another over Mark, and the third about a mile below the junction of Lee and Mark. The above bridges were all built since 1749.

*Fuel.*—Hitherto the inhabitants have been well supplied with peats; but as the mosses, in several places upon the low ground, are nearly worn out, their fuel will be obtained with greater difficulty and labour, in a few years hence; in regard that the hills, although in many places covered with inexhaustible moss, are, at present, inaccessible; and it would require very considerable sums of money to make even tolerable roads of communication.

*Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—From the time of the Reformation to 1723, Lochlee and Lethnot made but one charge; the minister resided at Lethnot, where he had a manse and glebe. It appears by a decret passed in 1717, that the stipend amounted to 1000 merks Scotch, with L. 50 Scotch for communion elements. During the above period, the minister preached two days at Lethnot for one day at Lochlee, and in tempestuous seasons of the year, the inhabitants of Lochlee remained without public worship altogether. As a remedy for this disadvantage, John Lindsay of Edzell, at that time also proprietor of Lochlee, by a deed of mortification, dated

dated at Edzell, " the twentie twa day of August, ane  
" thousand fix hundereth fyftie nyn years," fet apart two  
crofts of land, adjoining to the church of Lochlee, 100 merks  
Scotch, 6 bolls of oat-meal, with pasture for one horse, one  
cow and 20 sheep, for the maintenance of a catechising  
reader at Lochlee, whose office was to convene the pa-  
rishioners in the minister's absence, to read a portion of  
scripture, and to pray with them. In 1723, Lochlee was  
made a separate charge. Lethnot and Navar being joined  
together, and the manse and glebe of Navar with nine hun-  
dred merks Scotch of stipend, and L. 50 Scotch for commu-  
nion elements, were decerned to belong to the minister of  
Lochlee. In 1726, the heritor agreed to build a manse at  
Lochlee, and to the designation of a new glebe there, in ex-  
cambion for the glebe and manse of Navar ; in the execution  
of which, it was found, that the glebe of Navar was equal in  
value to four seventh parts of a farm, near the church of  
Lochlee, called the Kirk-town. The minister of Lochlee,  
therefore, now enjoys as a glebe, four seventh parts of the  
arable land, grafs and hill pasture, that formerly belonged  
to that farm, and L. 54 : 3 : 4 Sterling of stipend and com-  
munion element money. The manse was built in 1750,  
and is at present in tolerable repair. The walls of the  
church, although apparently very old, are still in good re-  
pair ; the roof was thatched with heath till 1784, when it  
was covered with slates. Since the year 1723, the mortifi-  
cation above mentioned has been enjoyed by the paro-  
chial schoolmaster, he having no other salary. The Ho-  
nourable Society for propagating Christian knowledge, have,  
for many years appointed a schoolmaster, to teach in corners  
of the parish most distant from the parish school, a measure  
that has tended very much to disseminate knowledge in it.  
The church and parochial school are near the centre of the  
parish, if regard is had to the boundary of the hill pasture ;  
but

but they are far otherwise in respect of the inhabited part, there being only three families residing west from the church. The King is patron of the parish. The church of Lochlee is situated about 8 miles from the church of Glenmuick, 10 from the church of Edzell, 9 from the church of Lethnot, 8 from the church of Clova, and 20 miles from Brechin, the nearest post town. The only road for wheel carriages from Brechin to Lochlee, lies in a direction north from Brechin for about 7 miles, till it crosses the Gannachy bridge, in the parish of Edzell; when, for several miles along the north side of the river North Esk, it takes a north westerly direction. It enters Lochlee at the east end, and from thence to the church. There are 6 miles in the direction of west, or rather W. S. W.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The farmers are subjected to no services by the heritor, with the following exception, that each tenant is to furnish a man and horse for two days in the year, to attend the proprietor, if desired; and in proportion to their rents, to carry materials for building and repairing the church, manse, school, and public buildings in the parish. The rents are paid *foreband*, that is to say, the rent for crop 1793, is paid, the first half, at Whitsunday 1792, and the last half at Martinmas 1792.—The rocks abound with limestone, but so full of sand as to require no additional mixture when used as mortar\*. It makes, however, a stronger cement, when used in building, and stands the frost better than the lime brought from the low country.—There is a vein of lead ore that runs through the parish, in a direction nearly east and west. About the year 1728, a company  
of

\* This sort of lime, which has naturally enough of sand mixed with it, is by far the best calculated for plaistering the outside of houses, &c. but is not so good a manure.



of miners were employed for some time in making a trial of it. They gave it as their opinion, that it was well worth the working; but as they had no overseer, and their employers resided at a great distance, the trial came to nothing, and was given up.

*Character.*—The inhabitants are, for the most part, regular in their lives, none of them, since the commencement of this century, having been subjected to any criminal prosecution, except one accused of murder, who was fugitated in 1776. Dram drinking, indeed, has, of late, become more frequent among them, and may be productive of other bad practices. The character of the people, however is, on the whole, respectable; and if they want somewhat of that polish, which prevails in more fertile and more populous districts, they are also free from many of those fashionable vices, by which the others are distinguished.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF CRAIGIE.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW SHAW.*

---

*Name, Erection, &c.*

THE name *Craigie* appears to have been given to this parish, from several craigs or rocks, which are situated near the church. This parish and that of Riccartoun, were formerly united, but were disjoined in 1647. It appears from records, that there were, at that time, in the two parishes, above 2000 communicants, which far exceeds the number in both at present. What causes have produced this decrease, it may, perhaps be difficult to ascertain. A considerable part of a small parish, called *Barnwell*, which was suppressed in the year 1673, when that of Stair was erected, is now annexed to Craigie.

*Extent, Situation, Surface, and Soil.*—This parish is about 7 English miles in length, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in breadth. It is situated in

that district of Ayrshire, called Kyle, in the presbytery of Ayr, and in the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Near the church and manse it is hilly. One may walk, in the short space of 5 minutes, from the manse to the top of one of the neighbouring hills, which, though not perhaps more than 500 feet above the level of the sea, yet commands a most extensive and delightful prospect. It may be safely said, that, above 100 square miles of rich land may be seen; and that in all that extent, almost every nobleman and gentleman's seat, every town and village, every garden and wood, appear distinctly. Here also are beheld the venerable Benlomond, and several of the other Grampian hills,—the frith of Clyde flowing beautifully to the ocean;—the ridges in the Isle of Jura,—the lofty tops of Arran, and the majestic rock of Ailsa, beyond which the hills of Ireland seem to rise from the sea.—The soil in general is rather light and gravelly. Some parts of it consist of a thin poor clay, but there are many fields of a deep strong clay, which, when properly cultivated, produce, in favourable seasons, very rich crops. The greatest part of the parish is arable, and inclosed with hedge and ditch, but some parks are surrounded with stone dikes. There are likewise some good fields of meadow ground. The hills are covered with verdure, and afford excellent pasture for cattle.

*Minerals.*—Many parts of this parish contain coal, though only one pit is at present wrought. In some places which were wrought not long ago, two seams were found; the one a hard and lasting, and the other a light, or what is called a *candle coal*. When these were burnt together, they made an excellent fire. There are also 2 or 3 great lime-works, whose distance from coal is not above 2 English miles. About 60,000 bolls of lime may be raised annually. The profit thence arising must be considerable,  
while

while the neighbourhood is greatly benefited by the lime, some of which has been carried southward, above 9 English miles. These lime works are in the eastern parts of the parish, and the western part of it is supplied with lime from quarries, surrounding the limits of this parish to the north.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The air, in general, is pure, and there are no distempers peculiar to the parish. Many of the inhabitants arrive at the age of 80, some at that of 90 years. They live neither in towns nor villages; they are employed chiefly in the open air, and are active, sober, and industrious; they are of late much improved in their dress and manner of living, and dwell in houses more neat and cleanly than formerly; circumstances which must contribute to health.

*Produce and Cattle.*—The grain chiefly cultivated in this parish, is oats. Pease, beans, and barley, are also raised, but in much smaller quantities\*. Potatoes are planted by almost every family for their own subsistence. Considerable quantities of rye-grass and clover seeds, are also sown. No turnips, cabbages, or hemp, are raised, and little flax, excepting some for private use. More grain is raised than is consumed in the parish; and much butter and cheese is sent to the markets of Ayr and Kilmarnock, and even to Paisley and Glasgow †.—Great attention is now given to the

\* Pease and beans are sown in the beginning of March, oats from the middle of March to the end of April, and barley soon after the middle of April. Harvest generally begins about the middle of September, and is finished about the middle of October.

† The price of every article of provision has risen greatly of late, particularly of beef, butter, cheese, hens, and eggs; and may rise still higher, in proportion as manufactures increase, and as this country becomes more rich and

the improvement of the breed of cows and horses, which have risen greatly in value within these few years. The number of horses, young and old, may be 246, and of cows 738. There are only a few sheep.

*Population.*—Upon comparing the present amount of annual baptisms, with that of any particular period, for a considerable time past, the state of this parish, with respect to population, does not appear to have been materially altered. Owing to the enlargement of farms, to the demolition of cottages, and to the increase of manufactures in the neighbourhood, (to which persons of all ages resort), its population might, perhaps, be supposed on the decline. Yet it is a fact, that the return to Dr Webster amounted only to 551; and, at present, the number of parishioners, young and old, are not under 700\*. They are mostly farmers, some are lime quarriers, some day-labourers, and there are a few of those tradesmen, who are essentially necessary in every country parish †. At an average for the last 5 years, there have been 6 marriages, 14 baptisms, and 9 burials, annually.

*Heritors,*

and populous. The prices of the above mentioned articles are regulated by the markets of Kilmarnock and Ayr; and they are also, in a great measure, affected by the more distant markets of Glasgow and Paisley.

* Under 10 years of age,	-	-	-	156
Above 10, and under 20,	-	-	-	140
Above 20, and unmarried,	-	-	-	164
Married,	-	-	-	214
Widowers and widows,	-	-	-	26
				<hr/> 700

† The wages of a man-servant, for the year, are, from L. 9 to L. 10, and of a maid-servant, from L. 3 to L. 4. The wages of a harvest labourer, are from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 10s., and of a day-labourer, 1s. 3d. in summer, and 1s. in winter.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—The number of heritors is 16, and 9 of them are resident. Of the heritors who reside, three have very considerable estates; the property of the other 6 is small. The valued rent is L. 3236 : 13 : 3 Scotch. From the improvements made by the superior skill and industry of the tenants, and also from the advanced price of the produce of land, the rent has greatly increased within these last 30 years; yet the tenants are in a better condition than they were before that time. The leases are commonly for 19 years. The ground is cropped for 3 years, and rests 6. The number of Scotch acres is about 5500. The rent is from 10s. to 20s. *per acre*, taking the average of which, the present rent of the parish must be about L. 4000 Sterling *per annum*. But, as some of the land is in the hands of the proprietors, that cannot be exactly ascertained. The farms are very unequal. Some are so small, as to be under L. 20. Some are from L. 40 to L. 60, and others are as high as L. 140 *per annum*.

*Church, Manse, and Stipend.*—The church was built *anno* 1776, is a neat and commodious place of worship, and may contain about 600 people\*. The manse was built *anno* 1745, and has since been at different times repaired. The stipend consists partly of victual, and partly of money; and, including the glebe, may amount to L. 96. The right of patronage belongs to William Campbell, Esq; of Craigie.

*Schools.*—Here is a parochial school, and the master has a legal salary, a house adjoining to the school, and also a garden.

\* The kirk of Craigie is said to have been formerly called *the Kirk in the Forest*, which name was probably given it, from its being surrounded by woods; but few trees are now to be seen near it. It is also said, that in this church, schemes were concerted by some of the principal reformers, whose estates lay in the neighbourhood, for opposing the measures of the Queen Regent, and for promoting the interests of the Reformation, at its commencement.

garden. The number of scholars is much greater in winter than in summer; and, at an average, during the year, may be about 60. The wages, *per* quarter, are, for English, 1 s. 6 d.; for writing, 2 s.; for arithmetic and Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; and a complete system of book-keeping is taught for 10 s. 6 d. The schoolmaster's place, including all perquisites, may amount to L. 30 Sterling.

*Poor.*—There are, at present, 12 persons who receive public charity. The sum spent yearly, for their support, is about L. 20. This arises from the weekly collections made in the church, and from the interest of a sum of money belonging to the parish. None who reside here are vagrants. Attention is given, that the children of those who are needy and indigent, be properly educated.

*Roads.*—The roads were formerly made and kept in repair by the statute labour, but this is now converted into money; 3 d. is paid for every pound Scotch of valuation, which may amount to about L. 40 Sterling yearly. The roads are kept in good order, considering the great number of coal and lime carts that are constantly passing over them.

*Character.*—The people are regular, peaceable, and industrious; anxious, in their several occupations, to provide for themselves and their families; and what they acquire by active labour, they enjoy with moderation. Few of them may be called rich, though almost all of them are far removed from poverty. When circumstances occur, that call forth their humanity, they are charitable. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the benefits and comforts of society, and are, in general, contented with their circumstances and situation in life.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF STRATHAEN,

*now generally called STRACHAN,*

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. MR JOHN RAMSAY.*

---

*Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE parish is situated on the north side of the Grampian mountains, in the bounds of the Synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil, about 100 miles north from Edinburgh, and 21 nearly west of Aberdeen. It reaches from the top of the Cairnie-mount to the river Dee, which measures 11 miles, and comprehends, according to survey, 31,659 Scotch, or 40,230 English acres. The arable ground is but small in proportion to the extent, perhaps only a fifteenth part of the whole. Over the Cairnie-mount there is a most excellent road, well accommodated with bridges, which lays open the communication from the southern, to the northern and eastern parts of Scotland, and the resort of travellers is very considerable.

*Hills.*



*Hills.*—The altitude of the highest hills, from the level of the sea, according to a survey made some years ago, is as follows: Kerloack 630 yards, Montbattack 1150, Kloachnabane 790. On the top of this last mentioned hill, there is a large rock, commonly called the stone of Kloachnabane, accessible only on one side. It is a land mark for ships at sea, and commands a most extensive prospect of the adjacent country, and a long tract of the sea coast.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The proprietors are Alexander Burnett, Esq; of Strachan, Francis Russell, Esq; of Blackhall, and John Douglas, Esq; of Tilliwhilly, proprietor of the lands of Gellan. At Blackhall there is an excellent modern house lately built, and there are large plantations of fir and birch along the banks of the Dee, for 2 or 3 miles. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2033: 14: 3 Scotch.

*Church, School and Poor.*—A new manse was built about 15 years ago, for the accommodation of the minister, and a new church last year, which is very well finished in every respect. Mr Burnett is patron. The stipend, including the value of a small glebe, and L. 20 Scotch of grass money, may amount to nearly L. 70 Sterling.—The funds for the support of the poor amount to L. 8 Sterling, arising from interest of money, and from L. 9 to L. 10 of collections on the Sundays, and when the sacrament is dispensed. It goes a great way to relieve the most necessitous poor.—There is a parochial schoolmaster, with a legal salary; but some parts of the parish reap little benefit from the school, being at a great distance, and waters intervening; which particularly is the case, as to the glen of Dye, the upper part of which is about 6 miles distant. The encouragement given to schoolmasters is by no means adequate to their usefulness;  
for

for which reason, in country parishes, they are generally obliged to put up with such as have not had the opportunity of much education, or may have made choice of that line of life, only for a temporary convenience, having other schemes in view. It were to be wished, that such an useful class of men were put into a situation, that would make them more respected, and consequently more useful to the public.

*Population, &c.*—The parish contains about 700 souls. They follow, in general, the farming line, and there are but few tradesmen among them. The number of males and females, births, marriages, and deaths, are much in the usual proportion. The population, it would appear, has decreased of late, the return to Dr Webster in 1755, amounting to 796 souls; principally owing to some of the farms having been converted into sheep pasture, and some lesser ones conjoined. The parishioners all regularly attend public worship, and, with a very few exceptions, are of the Established Church. They are sober and industrious.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—Improvements, though now begun, have made as yet but small progress. One great obstruction is the situation of the farmers, who consist mostly of such as have saved a little money, while in service, with which they settle upon a farm, and owing to the smallness of their stock, must of consequence contract debt, which, by their utmost exertions afterwards, they are rarely able to extinguish. There is as much grain raised, as may be sufficient to support the inhabitants. The farmers now begin to raise hay, turnips, and potatoes; but oats and bear are the chief produce of this part of the country. A good many black cattle and sheep are reared on the several farms, which, during the summer months, generally pasture

in the hills. They are, for the most part, of a small size. Sheep, brought from the south of Scotland, commonly turn out well, and there are a great many of these in the glen of Dye. It is a general practice, among the farmers, to put their sheep into houses during the night, which is hurtful to the sheep, and likewise to the wool.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is no marl as yet found out, in this part of the country, but limestone is to be had in the neighbourhood in great plenty. It is most commonly burned with peats and turf, from the hills, which is the fuel generally made use of, and with which the country is well supplied.—There are two waters, which run through this parish, the *Feugh* and the *Dye*, which take their rise in the Grampian mountains, unite about a quarter of a mile above the church, and fall into the *Dee* 2 miles below. On both these streams there is, in the season, excellent rod-fishing for grilse, sea and burn trout. On the hills, which are mostly covered with heath, with grass grounds interspersed, moor game abound. Hares, partridges, and wild ducks, are likewise to be found in the more cultivated parts of the parish. There are a good many deer in the woods.—A man servant, who is reckoned a good hand, will draw yearly upwards of L. 5 Sterling of wages. A woman servant about half that sum. A day-labourer will earn about 10d. a-day. The women's chief employment is knitting worsted stockings, and spinning factory yarn. The manufacturers send out the wool, properly dressed, and afterwards come and receive the stockings, when manufactured, for which they pay according to the quality. They have agents in the country, who give out the flax and receive the yarn.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF CERES,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. ROBERT ARNOT, D. D.*

*Minister of that Parish.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

THE parish of Ceres is one of the districts, which constitute the presbytery of Cupar, within the bounds of the Synod and county of Fife. It takes its name from the village in which the church stands, situated 2 miles and a half S. E. of Cupar the county town, and presbytery seat. From records, and old papers, it appears, that the orthography of the name was very indetermined, previous to the present century. Sometimes it was written *Siras*, at other times *Sires*, *Cyres*, *Cyrus*, *Cires*.—It is now understood, that Ceres is the true orthography, and in this way the name is now almost always written. There is no reason for believing, that the name of the parish, although the same with that of the heathen goddess, believed to preside over corn, is derived from her. It is highly probable, that it  
is,

is, like the names of most other places in this part of the island, of Gaelic original, bearing an allusion to the situation of the village, or to some historical fact concerning it.

*Extent, Soil, Minerals, &c.*—The greatest length of the parish, from Magask moor on the N. E. where it joins the parish of St Andrew's, to Clatto-den on the S. W. where it joins the parish of Kettle, is about 8 statute miles. The breadth is various, from half a mile to 4 miles. The contents may be about 8000 acres. The soil, as may be expected in so great an extent of ground, is of different qualities. Along the banks of the Eden, in the N. W. part of the parish, it is light, inclining to sand, and lies upon freestone rock. The greater part of the parish, is a deep cold earth, lying upon whinstone rock, limestone rock, or tilly clay. A small extent, around the village, is a free earth lying upon gravel. There are two considerable moors, and several moors, some of greater, some of smaller extent. The parish, in general, is hilly; but none of the hills are of great height, or very steep: Almost all of them are cultivated to the summit. A beautiful little valley runs about a mile west, and about as far east, from the village. Along the north side of the parish, there is plenty of freestone rock, not difficult to be wrought. The south side abounds with whinstone rock. On the farm of Newbigging of Craighall, there is a little hill called *Gather-cold-craig*, the west side of which consists of a mass of basaltic pillars, of an hexagonal form, of various heights and diameters, and joined at irregular distances. There are 3 lime works, and 1 coal work in the parish, all wrought to a considerable extent. The value of the coal work is much diminished by the expence of a steam engine, for drawing off the water. Two coal pits, wrought in the parish, about 10 years ago, are now given up.

*Rivers,*

*Rivers, Fish, Climate, &c.*—Eden, the principal river in the county of Fife, abounding with excellent trout, runs along the N. W. side of the parish about a mile and a half. Three burns or brooks, one from the east, one from the south, and one from the west, unite near the village of Ceres, and form what is called Ceres burn; which, after running a mile and a half, in a N. E. direction, through this parish, turns north through the parish of Kemback, and falls into the Eden a little above Dairfie bridge. In Ceres burn there are a good many trouts, but the number is prevented from increasing, by the ochre water from the coal mines, and by the great quantity of lint, steeped annually in the burn itself, or in the rivulets which fall into it. Every part of the parish, is well supplied, with springs or rivulets of excellent water; and this advantage it derives from its hilly situation. On the banks of the Eden, and in the valley around the village of Ceres, the air is temperate and mild. Snow seldom lies long. Harvest begins commonly about the 20th of August. But in the higher parts of the parish, the air is colder,—snow lies longer,—and harvest does not begin till about the first week of September. The parish is healthy, and not distinguished from the adjacent districts by any particular disease. With regard to longevity, the inhabitants are on the same footing with those in the neighbourhood.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—Within these last 30 years, much has been done in the way of inclosing; in some places with stone dikes, in others with hedge and ditch. Within the same period, much has also been done in the way of planting: And this, together with inclosing, has added much both to the beauty and value of these estates, where they have taken place. Much, however, in both respects, yet remains to be done. The cultivation of  
wheat

wheat, barley, oats, pease and beans, flax, clover, rye-grass, potatoes, and turnips, is general, according as the different soils are suited to them, and in such rotations as experience has shown to be most profitable. Since the introduction of clover, the cultivation of pease and beans, has been less attended to. The quantity of wheat, sown annually in the parish, is ten times greater now, than it was 40 years ago; and the consumption has increased in equal proportion. The gross produce of all kinds of grain in the parish, may be about 12,000 bolls, which, after deducting the quantity necessary for feed, will do a great deal more than supply the inhabitants. Potatoes form a considerable part of the food of the people, and are also used as food for horses. The quantity raised is about 2000 bolls yearly. The soil being excellently calculated for flax, a great deal is cultivated; the annual produce may be about 1500 stone weight. It will not be wide of the truth to calculate, that three tenths of the ground in the parish are yearly in tillage; six tenths in grass for cutting, and for pasture; and one tenth in moss, moor, and planting. In ploughing, horses are chiefly used; where oxen are employed, 2, together with 2 horses, are reckoned sufficient. Thirty or 40 years ago, 4 oxen and 2 horses were employed in each plough; 2 good horses are now found sufficient; and the same man, that holds the plough, also drives it. Both the old Scotch plough, and the English, with a curved mould-board, are used. The latter now, is the more frequent of the two.

The number of ploughs employed in the parish, is			
about,	—	—	90
Number of horses, employed in different kinds of			
work,	—	—	250
			Number

Number of young horses not ready for work,		50
———— calves reared yearly,	—	250
———— oxen and cows,	—	1000
———— sheep *,	—	400

*Farms, &c.*—The farms in the parish, are of various extents; from 20 to 400 acres, and the rents different, from 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. the acre, according to the soil and situation. A great many farms in the parish, belonging to the estate of Craighall, were feued about the beginning of the present century; these, owing to the rise of the value of land, and improvements in agriculture, although feued out at the full rent, are now become of greater value to the feuers than to the superior.—Upon the different farms, a cottager, or, as he is commonly called, a *cotter*, is kept for each plough employed on the farm. He is bound to serve the farmer in all sorts of necessary labour, and is allowed, besides his house, a small yard for raising kitchen stuffs, ground for a certain quantity of flax and potatoes, has a cow kept for him throughout the year, and receives L. 4 or L. 5 in money. Experience has proved this plan to be advantageous both for masters and servants. These cottagers are generally married, and have families, which afford a supply of useful hands, both for agriculture and manufactures. The wages of a man servant, not a cotter, are about L. 8 yearly; the wages of a maid servant, L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3 a-year. Day labourers receive 1 s. a-day, in the time of harvest; and on pressing occasions, more is given.

### Trade

\* About 50 years ago, there were not fewer than 20 flocks of sheep kept in the parish; which, allowing ten score to each flock, would make the whole number of sheep, 4000. The flocks are now reduced to two.



*Trade and Manufactures.*—The articles of trade in the parish are cattle, horses, corn, flax, linen, coal and lime. There are 138 looms employed in the manufacture of linen.

There are in the parish,

Flaxdressers, - - -	7	Tailors, - - -	8
Smiths, - - -	8	Brewers,* (who also keep inns,)	3
Wrights, - - -	11	Bakers,* - - -	6
Wheel-wrights, - - -	2	Grocers or Shopkeepers, - -	8
Mill-wright, - - -	1	Alehouses, - - -	6
Cooper, - - -	1	Corn Mills, - - -	6
Turner, - - -	1	Barley ditto, - - -	4
Mafons, - - -	15	Lint ditto, - - -	5
Shoemakers, - - -	7		

There are two annual fairs held in the village; one on the 24th of June, which is reckoned one of the principal markets for cattle in the county; the other on the 20th day of October.

*Population.*—Within these 40 years, the population has, on the whole, decreased.

The return to Dr Webster in		Number of Males, -	1028
1755, was - - -	2540	— — Females, -	1292
The present number of souls		— — Persons residing in	
is - - - - -	2320	the village, -	740
		— — Married persons, -	744
Decrease, - - -	220	— — Widowers, -	34
Number of families in the pa-		— — Widows, -	121
rish, - - - - -	589	— — Unmarried persons, -	1421

*Number*

\*\* In the remembrance of many persons yet alive, there were 14 or 15 brewers in the parish, and only 2 bakers; the number of bakers is now double that of the brewers. There is no butcher in the parish, the inhabitants being supplied with butcher meat from Cupar, the county town. Several of the mechanics keep one, and some of them two apprentices or journeymen.

*Number of Marriages in the course of 10 years, from the 31st December 1780, to the 31st December 1790.*

Both parties residing in the parish,	-	-	-	66
The man in the parish, but not the woman,	-	-	36	} 81
The woman in the parish, but not the man,	-	-	45	
Total,				147

*Number of Births, during the above 10 years.*

Males,	-	-	-	276
Females,	-	-	-	254
Total,				530

*Number of Burials within the same period.*

Males,	-	-	259	Persons, who at their death	
				resided in the parish,	421
Females,	-	-	248	Persons from other parishes,	86
507					507

It is remarkable, that, in the course of 10 years, 86 persons from different parishes have been interred in the burial yard at Ceres, during which period, there have not been more than 4 or 5 persons carried out of the parish of Ceres, to be buried in other parishes.

Yearly average of marriages, according to the whole number,  $14\frac{7}{10}$

Yearly average, taking only one half of these marriages, in which there is but one of the parties in the parish; which appears to be the proper mode of computation,  $10\frac{65}{100}$

Yearly average of births, 53.

Yearly average of burials, according to the whole number,  $50\frac{7}{10}$

VOL. V. 3 Q Yearly

Yearly average, taking only the persons residing in the parish, and supposing 5 persons carried out of it in the course of 10 years, - - - 42. $\frac{6}{10}$

It would appear, that the population of the parish had increased very fast towards the beginning of the present century. But for a good many years past, it seems to have decreased; the return to Dr Webster, in 1755, amounting to 2540 souls. The army, navy, and different pursuits in life, carry away many young men; and this, as it prevents the increase of population, is likewise the reason, why the number of females is so much greater than that of the males, although the births of the latter exceed those of the former.

*Ecclesiastical State* \*.—The right of patronage, by a grant from the Crown, is now vested in the Earl of Craufurd, who is

\* Ceres parish is a rectory, which, before the Reformation, belonged to the provostry of Kirkheugh, a religious house at St Andrew's, some remains of which are still to be seen, immediately above the harbour, on the west, and separated from the Abbay wall by a deep hollow way. A considerable part of the east end of the parish formerly belonged to the parish of St Andrew's, and about the year 1620, was annexed to the parish of Ceres, *quoad sacra tantum*. The church is a very old fabric, to which great additions have been made at different times. At some remote period, an aisle has been conjoined to it, on the east end, by the family of Craufurd, and still continues to be their exclusive property. An aisle has also been conjoined on the south, which is the exclusive property of the Hon. John Hope of Craighall. This, before the Reformation, was a chapel dedicated to St Ninian, and the schoolmaster of Ceres, whose place is in the gift of Mr Hope, receives a presentation to be chaplain of the chapel of St Ninian, founded within the church of Ceres, and to be reader of that parish. A small salary of L. 3 Scotch was payable in former times to the chaplain, from certain houses in Cupar, but these houses cannot now be discovered, and the chaplainry has become a title without a benefice. In the year 1722, on account of the increased population of the parish, a large

is also titular of the teinds. The living, by a decret of the court of teinds in 1786, was fixed at fix chalders victual, half meal, half bear, with L. 45 Sterling of money, and L. 5 for communion elements. The glebe consists of 7 acres of very excellent ground. The inhabitants of the parish are divided, with regard to religious opinions, as under:

Families who adhere to the Established Church,	481
————— join the Associate Congregation of Antiburgher Seceders,	80
————— the presbytery of Relief,	25
————— the Burgher Seceders,	1
————— the Scotch Episcopal Church,	1
————— the Anabaptists,	1

The Associate Antiburghers have a meeting-house in the village of Ceres, built in the year 1744. The congregation is made up of persons of that persuasion, in this and the neighbouring parishes. Persons of different opinions live peaceably and happily together, and the feuds and animosities, which formerly prevailed on that account, are now unknown.

*School.*—By a contract entered into *anno* 1631, between Sir Thomas Hope, advocate to King Charles I. on the one part, and Lord Lindfay patron of the parish, the heritors thereof, the minister and kirk-session, on the other part; Sir Thomas Hope, in consequence of mortifying 100  
merks

large aile was added by the heritors, on the north side of the church. The whole will contain about 800 hearers, and is by far too small a place of public worship for the parish. The manse was rebuilt in the year 1788, the expence, exclusive of the materials of the old manse, and the carriages, which were all furnished by the tenants of the parish, amounted to L. 320 Sterling. In this sum what was laid out on the offices is not included.

merks Scotch yearly, for the benefit of the schoolmaster, was to have the hereditary right of presenting the schoolmaster, but the right of trial and admission was to be vested in the minister and session. In this state the matter still continues. Besides the parish school, there are several private schools, one supported by subscription, at which about 50 young persons attend throughout the year; and 3 taught by women, at which there may be about 50 or 60 scholars.

*Poor.*—The funds, for the support of the poor, arise from collections at the church-door; money for the mortcloths at burials; dues on marriages; the rent of 3 acres of land; the interest of L. 80 Sterling lent out on bond, and the rents of some seats in the church. The whole amounts to about L. 46 Sterling yearly. The number of poor, at an average, is about 20, who are relieved at their own houses, as their situations may require, according to the discretion of the session. Occasional donations are made by some of the heritors, of whom but few reside in the parish. In the year 1782, the heritors assessed themselves in the sum of L. 25 Sterling; which, with the ordinary funds, proved sufficient for the relief of the poor, during the scarcity occasioned by the failure of that crop.

*Rent, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 8248, 1s. 11d. Scotch.—The teind, according to a valuation made in 1631, is fixed as follows: Wheat, 2 firlots, 1 peck, 2 lippies, two fifths of a lippie; bear, 32 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, 3 lippies, two thirds of a lippie; meal, 26 bolls, 1 firlot, 2 pecks, 3 lippies, two thirds of a lippie; oats 52 bolls, 2 pecks, one third of a lippie; money, L. 2046 : 16 : 2 Scotch; cheese, 1 stone and  $\frac{4}{5}$ ths; lambs, 2.

*Remarkable*

*Remarkable Places.*—STRUTHERS, or, as it is called in some old papers, *Auchter-uther-Struther*, formerly the seat of the Earls of Crawford, stands a mile and a half south west from the village of Ceres. The house is old, with towers and battlements, which give it a venerable and a sort of warlike appearance.—In the description of Fife, in *Camden's Britannia*, Struthers is said to derive its name from the number of reeds growing around it. There is, indeed, a wet meadow to the south of the house, but no reeds are now to be seen. The park around the house, inclosed with a stone wall, contains about 200 acres of ground; there are a good many trees in different places of the park, particularly some venerable beeches of a very large size.

Upon the estate of Scot's-Tervit, or, as some write it, *Scotstarvet*, (the property, from which Miss Scott takes her title), there is a beautiful tower of free stone, well hewn and nicely jointed. This tower is about 24 feet square, and about 50 or 60 feet high. It stands upon an eminence, and is seen at a great distance in different directions. It has evidently been intended for a place of strength; the walls are thick, and the few windows in it are very small. The tower is formed by one lofty vault, on the top of another; upon the top of the uppermost, which is surrounded with a battlement, there is an apartment covered with slate. The tower stands a mile and a half west from the village of Ceres.

CRAIGHALL, now in ruins, formerly the seat of Sir Thomas Hope, already mentioned, (from whom the principal families in Scotland of the name of Hope are descended,) continued to be the residence of Sir Thomas's heirs, till the beginning of the present century; and it stands half a mile S. E. of Ceres, upon the north bank of a beautiful den, planted with trees; and is sheltered on the north by a  
little

little rocky hill, from which it takes its name. The situation is beautifully romantic, and the extent of the ruins indicate its former magnificence.

MAGASK, or, as it is commonly called, *Magus moor*, famous for being the scene of the death of Archbishop Sharp, who was killed on his way from Ceres to St Andrew's, in the year 1679, lies in the north east of Ceres parish. In the western extremity of St Andrew's parish, near the boundary of Ceres, stand the tombstones of some persons, who suffered for the death of the Archbishop. Being regarded as sufferers in the cause of religion, the stones erected over their graves, got the name, which they still retain, of the *Martyrs Stones*.

*Eminent Persons.*—1. That branch of the noble family of Lindsay, distinguished by the title of *Byres*, which, after first attaining the title of Earl of Lindsay, acquired also that of Crawford, had its chief residence, for about two centuries preceding 1774, at Struthers in the parish of Ceres. This branch of the Lindsay family has produced many eminent statesmen and soldiers, the account of whose character and transactions, may be found in the general history of the country. 2. Lindsay of Pitscottie, author of a very entertaining history of Scotland, abounding with many curious anecdotes, was a native of the parish of Ceres, and proprietor of a small estate in it. 3. Thomas Buchanan, rector of Ceres immediately after the Reformation, was a man of considerable abilities, and of great influence in the church. Owing to an emulation between him and Mr Andrew Melvill, Principal of the divinity college in St Andrew's, by which the peace of the presbytery of St Andrew's was destroyed, it was found necessary to separate from that presbytery, a good many parishes formerly belonging to it, and, amongst others, the parish of Ceres; which were erected into a new presbytery

presbytery appointed to hold their meetings in Cupar, the county town. By these means a distinct field was afforded to each of the rivals, in which he might display his abilities. Spottiswood, in his history of the Church of Scotland, mentions this, as having taken place in the year 1591. 4. Mr Thomas Haliburton, minister of Ceres, and afterwards Professor of divinity at St Andrew's, was esteemed both as a divine and as a scholar. Several treatises, written by him, give proof of his piety and learning.

*Remarkable Occurrences.*—On Wednesday the 5th day of October 1785, Sig. *Vincentius Lunardi*, a Florentine, having ascended at Edinburgh, in an air balloon, at 3 o'clock afternoon, descended a mile to the eastward of Ceres, at 20 minutes past 4 P. M. This was the first aërial voyage made in Scotland, and the daring adventurer, in performing it, passed over about 20 miles of sea, and about 12 of land.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The Excise laws, and the execution of them, are so heavy on brewers, that the ale, called in Scotland twopenny, is scarcely drinkable; this has led to a hurtful use of spirituous liquors. Were the whole duty, at present laid on malt and ale, laid upon malt only, this would leave the brewer at liberty to make his ale as he pleased; would secure a good and wholesome beverage to the country; would prevent the hurtful use of spirituous liquors; would save the expence of one half of the excise-officers at present employed; would increase the revenue, and be attended with no loss, but that of a little patronage to persons in power.—The populousness of the parish of Ceres, is owing to the lime and coal works, and to the manufactures carried on in it, but, perhaps, more to the great number of freeholdings in it, than to all the other causes. It may be considered as an axiom in politics, that,  
wherever



wherever men have safe and permanent habitations, with abundant supplies of the necessaries and conveniencies of life, the population will increase, in proportion as these advantages are enjoyed.—The highways in the parish are in general very bad, owing to the depth and wetness of the soil through which they pass. An act of Parliament has been lately obtained for making turnpike roads through the county of Fife, one of which is to pass through the west, and another through the east end of the parish. These, with the bridges to be built where necessary, in the line of these roads, will be of great service to this neighbourhood\*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Within these 30 years, more than a half of the houses in the country part of the parish, have been rebuilt, and in the village a good many new ones erected; all of them, in point of neatness and convenience of accommodation, far excelling the old ones. A great change has taken place in dress, within the period above mentioned; the plaid is now almost wholly laid aside by the women, and the use of the cloak and bonnet has become general. Among the men, the Scotch bonnet has given place to the hat; the servant men are generally clothed with English cloth, and many of them have watches in their pockets. The use of barley and pease for making bread, is much on the decline; and the use

\* The parish of Ceres cannot boast of any remarkable antiquities. There are some tumuli or hillocks in the parish, in which, upon their being dug into, stone coffins, composed of thin broad stones, set on edge, for the sides and ends, and laid flat for the top and bottom, have been discovered. The bones found in them were reduced to ashes. Some urns have also been dug up, in which the ashes of human bones were found. In an urn, dug up near the boundaries of the parish of Ceres and Cults, a smaller urn was found inclosed, and in it, besides some ashes of bones, a small brass instrument like the iron of a shoemaker's awl, and a small black bead cut in a diamond form, were found.

use of bread made from wheat is now very general. It may be safely said, that tea is used in three fourths of the families in the parish. The quantity of butcher meat consumed, is at present double what it was 30 years ago\*.

\* In the year 1770, a young rook, commonly called a crow in Scotland, was taken out of a nest upon a tree at Struthers; the bird was perfectly white, without one black feather; the beak, legs and claws were also white; it was tamed, and lived about two years in Struthers house. In voice, manner of living, and feeding, it differed not from other birds of the same species.

In the year 1788, a white swallow was seen by many persons, at different times, through the whole of the summer season, flying about the Tower of Scotstarvet in the west end of the parish. Both of the above particulars fell under the immediate observation of the compiler of this statistical account.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF SYMINGTON,

(COUNTY of AYR.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM LOGAN.*

---

*Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THE parish of Symington, in the shire of Ayr, in the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and in that district of the county called Kyle Stewart, affords few materials for statistical investigation, as it contains neither any antiquities, natural curiosities, nor has been the scene of any singular or eventful transactions. The length of the parish from S. W. to N. E. is little more than 4 miles, and its mean breadth about a mile and a quarter. The soil, in general, is clayey, a few fields excepted, of a fine vegetable mould, on a bottom of rotten rock. It presents a surface beautifully diversified with gentle rising grounds and sloping fields. The public road from Portpatrick to Glasgow and Edinburgh, one of the most pleasant and best frequented in North Britain, runs

runs the whole length of the parish; which, in this district, is made of very durable materials, being land or whin stones collected off the fields, beaten small, laid on to a great thickness, and kept in excellent repair. On every side there is an easy descent, for the rain water to run into the ditches, which are well scoured from time to time. This road from the Monkton road, till it reaches the middle length of Symington, rises by a gradual ascent, and from thence descends to Kilmarnock. On the highest parts within the parish, the traveller is presented with extensive, beautiful, grand, and diversified prospects, consisting of the wide and fertile plains of Kyle and Cunninghame, with their numerous inclosures, belts, clumps of planting, and gentlemens seats. These most rich and delightful views are bounded on the south, east, and north, by distant cloud-capp'd mountains, and on the west by the frith of Clyde, in which are seen the magnificent, and wave-surrounded rock of Ailsa, the island of Arran, with its towering summits, and the ships sailing to and from Ayr, Irvine, Saltcoats, Greenock, and Port-Glasgow.

*Water, Climate, and Diseases.*—There are no rivers in the parish, nor even a stream, which deserves the name of a rivulet; but the inhabitants are generally supplied with excellent water from open springs, or from sunk wells.—From the quality of the soil, and the local situation of the parish, the air is dry and salubrious. The clouds which rise from the Atlantic, being attracted by the distant hills on every side, float in fogs on their summits; and, when they break into rain, the greatest part of it falls on them. Hence, the inhabitants are remarkably healthful, and no local distempers of any kind prevail among them. Even when they are visited by the natural small-pox, the disease is generally more mild, than in the neighbouring parishes. Inoculation  
has

has only taken place in two or three instances, and it were earnestly to be wished, that the minds of parents could be reconciled, to adopt that happy method of saving their offspring, from the ravages of a most virulent disease.— There are no remarkable instances of longevity ; but what is of more importance, than a few accidental examples of uncommon old age, great numbers enjoy the blessings of health and strength, to an advanced period of life, and a few are living at present, who, between 80 and 90, can undergo considerable fatigue in their respective callings, and with cheerfulness entertain the young with the tales of former times.

*Improvements.*—About 50 years ago, this parish, like others in the neighbourhood, was almost in a state of nature. At that period there were no inclosures, except the glebe, and a few acres adjoining, which, about 70 years ago, were inclosed with hedge rows. The country in winter was a naked waste, scarce a tree appeared to gratify the wandering eye, except a few about the seats of residing heritors ; and the roads were all deep and unformed. The unmanured and half ploughed fields yielded scarcely three returns ; which, after servants wages, and a trifling rent were paid, afforded only a scanty subsistence for the farmer and his family. About the year 1740, the proprietor of the lands of Dankeith, who was a bachelor, and resided occasionally, planted, with taste, several belts and clumps on his property, dressed a few of his fields with compost, and was among the first who introduced rye-grass into Ayrshire ; but as he did not reside constantly, his improvements were partial, nor were the minds of his neighbours sufficiently enlarged, to adopt the example he had set them. They continued their wretched husbandry, without any attempt to meliorate or improve the soil ; until about 20 years ago, when the  
lands

lands of Rosemount, on the S. W. end of the parish, were fertilised and beautified, by the skill and attention of the proprietor, who holds them mostly in his own possession. This gentleman, distinguished by fortune and public spirit, began to improve his paternal inheritance, with an ardour and assiduity, becoming an enlightened and generous mind. He laid out his fields with taste, surrounded them with planting, inclosed them with proper fences, and meliorated a naturally cold, stiff, and clayey soil, with calcareous and other manures. The good effects of his improvements soon appeared, not only on his own property, but also on that of other proprietors, who laudably imitated the example, and, in a short time, similar improvements were made through the whole parish, which was inclosed, and made arable; and the land, which before that period was let, on an average, for 2 s. 6 d. *per acre*, is now let at L. 1, 1 s. It is a singular fact, and worthy of remark, that the rental of the lands of Rosemount, which, at the period above mentioned, was only L. 70 *per annum*, and thought to be high, is now nearly ten times the value; and about 20 acres of that property, which was then let for *one pound of butter per acre*, and believed to be a fair rent, is now let at L. 1, 5 s. From a spirited and well managed husbandry, not only the value of these lands is thus surprisngly increased, but also the population; for, besides a number of labourers from the neighbourhood, who find constant employment, and unmarried servants, there are 17 families in separate houses, with a numerous and healthy progeny, well lodged, fed, and clothed, where formerly there were but 7, every way poorly accommodated.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The mode of culture generally practised in the parish is this: Every farm is divided into three parts. Each of these is plowed in its turn for 3 years,

years, and remains in grass for other two. The tenant is bound to sow grass feeds with the third years crop, and is allowed only to cut his hay for one season. This, however, deprives him of the power of trying any useful experiments, or of using any other kind of rotation; which, perhaps, might be more advantageous to himself, and more improving to the soil. Hence the principal productions are oats and bear, with some barley. Wheat is reckoned to be a precarious crop, and very little of it is raised, from a conviction, that two crops of oats are more profitable. Green crops, such as turnips, pease and beans, are sown in small quantities, though the soil seems excellently adapted for the latter. There is lime in the parish and in the neighbourhood. 100 bolls, consisting of 5 Winchester bushels each, when flacked, are commonly laid on each acre, before it is broke up by the plough. After this manure, the farmer may expect, when the seasons are favourable, two excellent successive crops of oats, yielding generally from 6 to 10, which may be estimated to produce, at an average, 7 returns\*. Little lint is raised but for domestic use. Potatoes are only raised for the same purpose, or feeding of cattle. The farms at present in lease are 25. Two of these consist of about 200 acres each; one of 160, two 120, two 100, two between 70 and 80, six from 50 to 60, five from 30 to 40, and the rest from 25 to 12, besides a few acres rented by some of the villagers. New leases for 19 years are granted at from 17 s. to L. 1, 5 s. and some land about the village at L. 1, 10 s. *per acre*. Many of the tenants being bound to pay the cess and statute labour, the latter is commuted at L. 1, 5 s. on each L. 100 Scotch of valued rent.

*Cattle, &c.*—There are in all about 120 horses in the parish; some are hired for farm work during the winter and spring.  
The

\* For farther particulars, see the Statistical Table.

The price of draught horses is generally from L. 20 to L. 25. All the ploughs, except one or two, are of the Scotch kind, and drawn by 3 horses, because the soil, in general, is deep, clayey, and stiff.—There are about 290 cows, of a middle size, and generally of a good milk kind, giving from 10 to 14 Scotch pints *per day* \*. The young ones reared annually may be between 50 and 60. Few cattle are fattened, for they do not yearly exceed 150. The profits in this way, no doubt, are fluctuating, and depend on the rise and fall of the markets for lean and fat cattle; yet, as feeding is attended with less trouble and expence, than the management of the dairy, it may be frequently more advantageous. The sheep are mostly of the domesticated and improved kind, but the inclosures are too small for their walk, and they are destructive to the hedges.

*Village and Population.*—The village of Symington, is most delightfully situated, in the centre of the parish. It stands

\* 2320 stones of excellent sweet milk cheese are made yearly, which, at 7s. *per stone*, is L. 812. 1160 stones of skimmed milk cheese, at 4s. *per stone*, are L. 232. 385 stones of butter, at 12s. *per stone*, are L. 232. The value of cheese and butter made in the parish, is L. 1276, which, at an average, is L. 4, 8s. *per cow*. Little milk is sold in the parish, as most of the villagers keep one or two cows. Three fourths of the butter and cheese are sold in Ayr, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, and other places. It may be thought, that this is a very profitable produce to the farmer or cowkeeper; but let it be considered, that his rent is high, and the price of his cows generally from L. 7 to L. 9 *per head*; that, to manage a dairy well, requires expence, labour, and attention, and the hire of maid servants, who understand it, is, from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4 *per annum*. The wages of men servants, who can plow, are, from L. 8 to L. 9. Those who keep cows, and rent no land, pay L. 2 for the grafs of each, and it will cost from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 10s. to maintain them through the winter. The balance on their produce is but a trifling reward for the time, cost, care, and attention bestowed on them.



stands on a rocky ground, and abounds in most excellent water, from the purest springs. It contains 56 families, or separate dwellings. Two of these families, consist of 10 persons each; two of 9; four of 7; four of 6; six of 5; four of 4: nine of 3; sixteen of 2; and nine houses or rooms are inhabited by individuals; in all 204 inhabitants. It is to be regretted, that in so fine a situation, the houses are not built in such order as to form a regular street. The population of the parish has increased within these 30 years, owing chiefly to the many married ploughmen, and labourers, who live on the lands of Rosemount. One fourth part of the inhabitants, in the country part of the parish, reside there, although these lands consist only of about a sixth of the surface, and are mostly in the proprietor's own possession.

#### STATISTICAL TABLE of SYMINGTON.

Length in English miles, -	4	Persons between 10 & 20, -	142
Breadth, -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	_____ 20 & 30, -	72
Population in 1792, -	610	_____ 30 & 40, -	82
_____ in 1755 -	359	_____ 40 & 50, -	79
Increase, -	251	_____ 50 & 60, -	48
		_____ 60 & 70, -	22
		_____ 70 & 80, -	6
		_____ 80 & 90, -	3
Average of births for 8 years		Number of families, -	133
preceding 1791, -	18	_____ married persons, -	184
Of deaths, -	8	_____ widowers, -	8
Of marriages, -	$5\frac{3}{8}$	_____ widows, -	23
Inhabitants in the village, -	204	_____ members of the E-	
_____ in the country, -	406	stablished Church, about	590
Number of males, -	295	Number of families of Antibur-	
_____ females, -	315	gher Seceders, -	3
_____ persons under 10		_____ Burgher do. -	1
years of age, -	156		
			Number

Number of persons born in Ire-		Number of male servants, un-	
land, - - - - -	5	married, - - - - -	30
----- proprietors residing, 7		----- female ditto, - - - - -	37
----- do. non-residing, - 9		----- plough-makers, - - - - -	2
----- clergymen, - - - - -	1	----- day labourers †, - - - - -	25
----- schoolmasters, - - - - -	1	----- poor, - - - - -	6
----- farmers, above L. 50		----- young persons taught	
a-year, - - - - -	15	English, writing, &c.	
----- ditto, under L. 50, 9		from 40 to 50	
----- keepers of alehouses, 2		----- ploughs, - - - - -	38
----- smiths, apprentices		Valued rent, in Scotch money,	
included, - - - - -	5	nearly, - - - - - L. 2000:0:0	
----- masons *, - - - - -	1	Real rent, in Sterling, <i>anno</i> 1792,	
----- wrights, - - - - -	3	about, - - - - - L. 3000:0:0	
----- weavers, - - - - -	10	Number of draught horses, - - - - -	95
----- shoemakers, - - - - -	7	----- saddle ditto, - - - - -	8
----- tailors, - - - - -	5	----- carriage ditto, - - - - -	4
----- millers, - - - - -	2	----- young ditto, - - - - -	13
----- coopers, - - - - -	1	----- sheep, - - - - -	200
----- hofiers, - - - - -	1	----- black cattle, about 500	

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

<i>Crops.</i>	<i>No. of Acres.</i>
Oats †, - - - - -	644
Bear, barley and wheat, - - - - -	190
Beans, pease and potatoes, - - - - -	132
In pasture, planting, and meadow hay, - - - - -	1934
3 E	<i>Church</i>

\* This mason is also a farmer, but mason work is likewise performed reasonably by the cooper and the plough makers, who are very useful and expert at various other handicraft employments.

† These are all married, and are either hired by the day or the year, at the lime quarries, &c. The wages of tradesmen and labourers, are the same as in the neighbouring parishes; and the prices of provisions are regulated by the markets of Ayr and Kilmarnock.

‡ The total produce of oats *per annum* is about 4500 bolls. These bolls measure 8 Winchester bushels each. Of these oats 2125 bolls were milled last year in the parish,

*Church and Heritors.*—The church is old, and bears no date; it is also dark, and too small. About 40 years ago, it received a thorough repair, being furnished with new pews, all painted, and the roof was plaistered. It has received some partial repairs since that period. The walls and roof which is oak, and said to have grown in the parish, where there is now no natural wood, are still good, but the ceiling begins to fail. The Earl of Eglinton is patron. The stipend is 106 bolls 2 firloths of meal;  $13\frac{1}{2}$  bolls bear; and, by a late decret of the Court of Teinds, L. 35, with L. 4, 3 s. 8 d. for communion elements, making in all, at the old conversion, L. 100; but, according to the average price of meal and bear, for some years past, its real value may be L. 120, exclusive of the glebe, which is not 4 acres.—In 1786, the heritors, unsolicited, and with a liberality which distinguishes their character, built a large, commodious, substantial, and well finished manse and offices. The two principal residing heritors live in elegant modern houses, pleasantly situated. One of these in particular commands the view of a rich, various, and extensive landscape; and though by no means in an elevated situation, yet part of 13 different counties are seen from the top of the house. The fields, orchard, garden, and pleasure grounds around it, do honour to the judgment and taste of the proprietor.

*School and Poor.*—In 1788, a house, with a slated roof, was built for the schoolmaster, consisting of a school-room, kitchen, and small bed-room. The salary is only 100 merks Scotch, or L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling. The fees of the master are, for teaching English 1 s. 6 d. *per* quarter; for writing, 2 s. for arithmetic 2 s. 6 d. with some small emoluments, as session-clerk, and for registering baptisms and marriages. The whole does not exceed L. 23.—The number of poor in the parish, who, at present, receive aid from the charitable funds,

funds, are, 2 poor widows, with their young families, 3 infirm and aged persons, and 1 insane. There were more till of late. They receive a large monthly allowance, and none are permitted to go a-begging. Before they are received on the roll, they must acknowledge the session to have a claim on their effects, if they leave any. As the great road from Portpatrick to Glasgow, &c. runs through the parish, it is infested with Irish vagrants, and with sturdy beggars from the neighbouring towns. Our funds for the poor on the session roll, are the weekly collections, which, at an average, is 6 s. *per week*, making L. 15, 12 s. *per annum*, and the interest of L. 260 accumulated in former times, when few or no poor were on the box. This sum is lent out on proper security, and brings yearly about L. 12, 4 s. which, with the collections, amount to L. 27, 16 s. and is adequate to the present exigencies of the poor; but some years past, when they were more numerous, the session, who manage the funds, with the consent of the heritors, were obliged to encroach upon a few pounds of the capital. Besides assistance to regular pensioners, occasional supplies are given to distressed families. No parish, perhaps, bestows more liberally on the poor. It appears from an old session record, that, about 70 years ago, the weekly collections, at an average, did not exceed 8 d. Sterling.

*Character.*—The inhabitants of this parish, in general, are sober and industrious, attentive to their respective callings, and exemplarily regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. They are, for the most part, moderate in their religious sentiments, charitably disposed, and seem contented with their condition. They have a taste for dress, and young women of the middle, and even of the lower ranks, would now blush to be seen in the blue cloaks, red plaids, and plain caps, which only 20 years ago, adorned

ed their sex : Nay, even the scarlet mantle, which lately was a badge of distinction among the daughters of farmers, is now despised ; and, *O tempora ! O mores !* the silk-worms of the East must be pillaged, to deck the heads and shoulders of our milk-maids. The bonnet-makers of Kilmarnock, no longer find demand for their manufacture, from the servant men and labourers in this part of the country ; but hats are worn both by men and boys of all ranks. Our young men are not to be seen, at church or market, in a coat of their mother's spinning, but dress themselves in English broad cloths, fashionable cotton stripes, and fine linen. Every stripling, as soon as he arrives at puberty, must have a watch in his pocket ; whereas, only 40 years ago, there were but 3 in the parish.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish derives several advantages from its local situation, which is in a populous, well cultivated district of the country, and not above 6 or 7 miles from 3 principal market towns, where the farmer finds ready sale for the produce of his dairy and farm. Both limestone and coals are in the parish. The latter, at present, is not wrought, but it abounds in the neighbourhood, and the roads to the pits and quarries are all in excellent repair. The farms are well inclosed and divided, and the tenants comfortably lodged. But among the many advantages of the parish, there are a few disadvantages, and the want of manufactures in the village is none of the least. An individual, for 3 years past, has made an attempt to carry on a branch of the woollen manufacture, by which he employs a few spinsters ; but want of stock obliges him often to purchase the materials on credit, and consequently, at a high price ; and to sell the produce instantly, at whatever ready money it will bring. Were moderate fees granted, and encouragement given to  
woollen

woollen or cotton manufacturers, to settle here, the pleasantness of the situation, the purity of the air, the excellence of the water, the goodness of the roads, the nearness of coal, and the vicinity of Symington to so many market towns, would render it a most eligible place. Were such branches carried on to any considerable extent, the property around would be rendered still more valuable, and old and young, who could work, might be profitably employed. There are 2 corn mills in the parish, where, when supplied with water, (which fails in frost or drought), the best oat-meal in the country is made; but this advantage is clogged with a material disadvantage. Many of the tenants are restricted to a heavy thirlage, which is a pernicious check on agriculture, and is a species of vassallage, that ought to be abolished in every civilized and improving country.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are only two houses where ale and British spirits are sold; one in the village, which is not much frequented; and the other by the side of the public road, where the weary traveller may find refreshment.—No person belonging to the parish, has been judicially impeached or convicted of any crime, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, except one unfortunate woman, who was banished many years ago.

## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF HOLME,

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES ALISON.*

---

*Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, and Sea Coast.*

THE word *Holme* is of Danish origin, and is descriptive of the local situation of the parish, which stretches along the meandering banks of that beautiful and well frequented frith, to which it gives the name of Holme Sound, leading from the Caledonian to the German sea, by Stromness. It belongs to the presbytery of Kirkwall, and Synod of Orkney, and was formerly a part of that bishoprick. It is situated 4 miles distant from the town of Kirkwall, on the S. E. side of Pomona, or Main Land, and declines gently to the south. From its position, detached from the scenes of bustling life, nothing but a bare recital of ordinary incidents can be expected. It extends 6 Scotch miles from W. to E. in length, and between 1 and 2 in breadth  
from

from N. to S. A promontory, named *Howquoy Head*, forms the entrance to the founnd on the west. Another promontory, called *Rosenefs*, limits its departure into the east sea. In the middle of the founnd, nearest the west entry, there is an island almost circular, termed *Lambbolme*, about 3 miles in circumference, belonging to the parish, in which there is one farm, which forms a pretty secure anchorage, between and the Main Land, for ships of 200 tons burden, and a small pier, where vessels of 50 tons may lie alongside; it is named *Holme Sound Bay*. Through this part of the founnd, the post between Kirkwall and Edinburgh crosses, to the distance of about half a league. The shores in general are low and rocky, yielding to the proprietors, *communibus annis*, 50 tons of kelp, besides a very considerable quantity of sea-ware for manure. The interjacent space, betwixt the four adjoining parishes and this, is an undivided common, separated from the arable ground by an earthen dike. This common is covered with heath and moss, from which the inhabitants of these surrounding parishes are supplied with peats and turf, their only fuel. It abounds with moorfowl, ducks, teals, snipes, green and grey plovers.

*Soil*.—The soil in this parish is, in general, light, thin, and loamy, intermixed with small stones, but apparently composed of the remains of the original moss, with which it seems to have been formerly covered; and the unctuous and tilly bottom, which, by long culture and manure, mixed with ware, has fertilised it to that degree, as to produce, in ordinary seasons, more than sufficient for the demands of the inhabitants.

*Produce*.—The vegetable productions are *big*, (a small species of barley), of which meal and malt are made, and  
which



which more than supplies the demands of the parishioners; and the surplus is transferred to the burgh of Kirkwall, mostly in malt, being the kind of rent the farmers are obliged to pay to the superior and landmaster. There is likewise an inferior kind of grey oats, of a lean quality, of which is made a weak but wholesome meal, not exceeding the demands of the parish. No other grain is propagated here, nor seems to suit the soil or climate. *Experientia docet.*—The usual time of sowing oats is from the beginning of March, and of big from the beginning of May, both O. S. and they are usually reaped in September. This parish has been in the practice of sowing flax-seed for 100 years back, and for the last 30 years to a very considerable extent; by their manufacturing whereof, their domestic requisites are furnished completely, and no contemptible quantity is sent annually to the east coast of England. The common grift of the cloth is from 900 to 1200, and some have exceeded 1800. By an accurate account, taken for several years previous to the 1787, there were upwards of 20,000 yards manufactured and bleached yearly in this parish, of its own growth. This seed is sown the first of May, and pulled after the middle of August. Since the year 1765, (when the crop was blasted by a hurricane on the 7th of August, over the whole of this county), potatoes have been introduced and propagated with much success; and every individual now shares in this public benefit. They are planted in the end of April after the plough, and raised about the end of August. The climate and soil is peculiarly favourable for cabbages, both in gardens and in the fields, although in the latter not so common. They stand out the severity of winter, and are wholesome and firm in April. The seed is sown in June, in a small *pennorbught*, and the plants are transplanted into the gardens, in the March following, and into the fields about the

the middle of June, and succeed well. Turnip seed sown here, whether in the gardens or fields, thrives well, and gives large returns. The seed is sown in May and June. Rye-grass and clover seeds, from the luxurious crops produced, seem suited to this soil and climate, whether sown alone or with grain; although the latter method is found to be most advantageous, as the stubble shelters the tender plants from the inclemency of the seasons.

*Agriculture and Cattle.*—Improvements in agriculture are, at least, a century later than in the more southern counties of Scotland. A plough with one stilt, corresponding to the Italian, described by Virgil in his first Georgic, is generally used.

Continuo in Sylvis magna vi flexa domatur  
 In burim, et curvi formam accipit ulmus aratri.  
 Huic a stirpe pedes temo protentus in octo,  
 Binæ aures, duplici aptantur dentalia dorso.  
 Cæditur et tilia ante jugo levis, altaque iugus,  
 Stivaque, quæ currus a tergo torqueat imos.

This very imperfect instrument for improvement, is drawn by 4 horses, two and two a-breast, and sometimes by three a-breast, of the breed of horses from Strathnaver, and the ploughman carries it under his arm, around the end of the ridge. A few two-stilted ploughs in miniature, a faint imitation of the old Scottish plough for tearing out leys, are beginning to be used, but seldom on other occasions. Harrows of two bulls, with wooden teeth, are drawn by an ox or heifer. Want of timber is a great bar to the progress of improvement here. Manure is carried in straw baskets on horses backs, to the more distant fields, and to those nigher, upon men and womens backs. A few carts in

miniature are beginning to be used, drawn by an ox in the shafts. All the cattle are of an inferior size. The sheep, though such beneficial creatures, are much neglected and ill treated; instead of shearing the fleece, it is pulled off the very skin; and to undergo this cruel operation, they are caught with dogs. A fleece, in general, will not weigh above 3 lbs. Amsterdam, and for the most part is mixed with hair.

*Population.*—The ancient state of the population cannot, with any degree of precision, be ascertained, owing to the parish registers being inaccurately kept. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755 was 1185 souls. Since the 1766, the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials, have been exactly kept. In that year, the number of souls was 810; and, by an accurate enumeration made in 1792, there were only 300 males, and 402 females. This decrease is not owing to more distempers or fewer births, but to a disposition in the youth to leave their native country, and follow the seafaring life, wherein they generally acquit themselves with reputation and advantage. Although there are upwards of 50 farmers, who pay from L. 6 to L. 12 Sterling of yearly rent, and who have brought up from 5 to 10 children of both sexes, yet there are not four of them who have the assistance of a son at home of 20 years of age. From 15 to that period, the youths go to the sea, and often never return to settle in the parish. The females are the chief assistants in cultivating the farms. By the register of baptisms and burials regularly recorded, the former has exceeded the latter one third. Marriages are annually not exceeding 4. The farms are small and trifling. Services are required from the cotters, who, when employed, are always maintained. The people are sober, regular, and industrious, neat in their dress, and domestic economy. The farm houses are mostly built of stone and clay, and the yard dikes of the same materials.

*Climat,*

*Climate, &c.*—The climate, though moist, being impregnated with saline particles, is nevertheless salubrious, and the inhabitants live to a good old age. There are some now living above 90. They are not subject to uncommon chronic diseases. The people are employed in manufacturing flax and wool, for their own wearing apparel and for sale, to the great emolument of the inhabitants.

*Tradesmen.*—There are a sufficient number of artists, to answer the demands of the place, viz. weavers, tailors, shoemakers, house and ship carpenters, smiths and coopers. There are none of the medical fraternity,—temperance rendering their aid unnecessary.

*Shipping and Fish.*—Two vessels belong mostly to the parish, greatly to the advantage of this and the neighbouring districts.—Although Holme lies contiguous to the sea on the S. and S. E. yet the people are but indifferently served with fish, owing partly to the inclemency of the seasons, and partly to there being no fishers by trade, living in this parish. Every individual during the summer and harvest months, has a seat or share in a fishing boat, and catches fish for his house and family, principally ling, cod, hollibut, haddocks, whittings, flounders, skate, and eniths or sole fish, lobsters, partans, crabs, and other inferior shell fish.

*Wages and Provisions.*—The wages of men servants, engaged by farmers for the year, are, from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 4 Sterling; women servants, from 10 s. to 20 s. Sterling; day labourers from 6 d. to 8 d. without victuals; artificers from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.—The prices of provisions within these 30 years, are nearly tripled, though the quality is nothing better. In the year 1762, a good mart cow was purchased at 15 s. Sterling, and the whole carcase did not  
exceed

exceed 1 d. the lb.; and now one of the same quality will fetch L. 2, 10 s. Sterling. Every other article of consumption is heightened in the same proportion.

*Church, Heritors, Rent, &c.*—St Nicholas church in this parish was rebuilt in 1781. The manse was built in 1763. The glebe, which consists of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, was inclosed with a stone dike by the present incumbent. It is situated by the shore, and every three years produces about six tons of kelp. The stipend consists of 86 *mails* malt, (each mail weighing about 12 stones Amsterdam weight), and of 6 barrels grease butter, which, with the vicarage tithes, including the glebe, may, *communibus annis*, amount to L. 70 Sterling. Sir Thomas Dundas is patron, whose charitable donations to the Orkney and Zetland Isles, in their indigency at different times, deserves notice, and will leave an abiding impression of his noble, humane, and generous feelings. Capt. Alexander Græme, of his Majesty's navy, whose behaviour on the Dogger Bank acquired him the esteem of the public, and his Sovereign's approbation, is almost sole proprietor. The family, for upwards of 100 years, resided at the family seat of Græmes-Hall, and by their example and encouragement promoted a spirit of industry in the people. From the family's first settlement, to this day, the proprietor has not raised the original rents; and some of the ancestors of the present tenants have possessed the same farm, time immemorial. In general, they are a sober, temperate and active race. There being no villages in this parish, the people are less corrupted in their morals, than those in towns and cities. They are patient, hardy and industrious, decent in their demeanour, rational in their religious sentiments, and regular in their attendance upon divine ordinances. There are no religious sectaries of any denomination. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2365 : 12 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  Scotch. The real rent is supposed to be about L. 700 Sterling, bishoprick included.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There is no other fund for the maintenance of the indigent, but what arises from the collections, on the Sabbath days, and at sacramental occasions, with the dues of marriages, mortcloth, and fines, amounting to between L. 3 and L. 4 Sterling. The list is seldom under 12. Such of them, as are able to travel, beg, and the infirm are supplied from this fund, and the charitable donations of the people.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one corn mill that goes by water, and two by wind. There is no lint mill, although it is much wanted. The Honourable Society for improvements, would, doubtless, upon a proper representation, advance money for the first erection of one. At present, the flax is manufactured with brakes, switches, and coarse heckles.—There are no foxes nor badgers, but some otters. There are no rivers, but some small rills of water run into the sea. Opposite to their junction are caught delicious and large sea trout, from one to 8 pounds weight.—There are no trees or shrubs of any species. There are a few singing birds, as larks, linnets and wrens; and a number of the ravenous kinds, as eagles, hawks, ravens, crows and owls; and sea-fowls of various sorts, such as are to be met with throughout the north of Scotland. No person has been criminally prosecuted or banished this parish in the annals of time. There are several new improvements made upon the commons, but of no considerable extent. The proprietor encourages the industry of settlers, by exacting no additional rent during their lives. But the turf has been so long peeled off for compost in their dunghills, that it is next to impossible to improve the ground, which discourages their attempts. There are several barrows observable in the parish and its environs. Some of these have been opened and found to contain small stone urns, with ashes in them. Nothing else remarkable has been observed and discovered therein.

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF KEITH,

## (COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER HUMPHREY, minister of For-  
dyce, and late assistant minister of Keith.*

---

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE ancient and modern name of this parish, as far as can be ascertained, is the same. Like all other old names in it, it is evidently of Gaelic origin, and derived from the word *gbaitb*, which, in that language, signifies wind, and which, when pronounced by a native Highlander, is not very dissimilar in sound from the word *Keith*. This etymology is countenanced by the local situation of the kirk and old village, near which lies an eminence, peculiarly exposed to violent gusts of wind, vulgarly called *Ar-keith*, an evident corruption of the Gaelic words *Ard-Ghairth*, pronounced *Ard Gui*, and signifying high wind. It is also supported by the ancient manner of spelling the name: In some old charters it is written *Gith*, which still more resembles the word *gbaoth*. It is an inland parish,  
9 miles

9 miles from any shore. It is situated about the middle of the county of Banff, in the presbytery of Strathbogie and Synod of Murray. It is about 6 miles long, and as many broad, being nearly circular. Supposing the church the centre, a radius of about 3 miles would almost describe it. It lies in the middle of a large strath, called Strath-Isla, or *Stryla*, from the water of Isla that runs through it; and contains a tract of as close, extensive, and fertile a field of arable ground, as is to be found in any strath in the north.

*Soil, Produce, Minerals, &c.*—The prevailing soil is loam and clay; the rest of it is light. It is in general fertile in its productions, though, on account of its depth and moisture, it is commonly late in bringing them to maturity. For, though the oat seed-time begins generally about the end of March, and the barley seed-time about the end of April; harvest seldom commences before the end of August or beginning of September. At present, the parish is entirely destitute of trees, except a few ashes and elms in country gardens; nor are any of its surrounding hills planted, but the hill of Mildary, belonging to Lord Findlater, where the planting is in a thriving way. Its general produce in grain, is oats, barley and pease. The first is the prevailing crop; but what quantity may be raised, or what proportions the different species of grain bear to each other, cannot easily be ascertained. Wheat has been seldom tried, though with one farmer, before 1782, (since which the seasons have generally been wet, late and cold,) it prospered well, for he reaped 22 returns. Almost every tenant has annually a plot of ground under flax, but seldom above an acre; except one gentleman, surveyor for the trustees, who has annually from 16 to 18 acres under flax, and seems to be perfectly master of its whole economy. In general, it is a thriving and profitable crop,  
and



and seems well adapted to the soil of Keith. Could a ready market be found for it, as it comes rough from the mills, (of which there are 3 in the parish), the quantity raised would be inconceivably increased. The manufacturers, wishing, (as is supposed, by those who have considered the subject most attentively), to monopolize the flax trade, discourage the raising flax at home, as much as possible, by using none but Dutch flax. The parish abounds in stone, which, in most places, may easily be obtained, only by digging a few feet; though not of an excellent quality, it answers tolerably well for building and inclosures. It has also plenty of a coarse gray slate, fit enough for slating houses. Limestone is to be had in abundance, on almost every farm, with plenty of peats at a moderate distance, for converting it to the purposes of building or agriculture. Notwithstanding that great advantage, agriculture is here just in its infancy; the long drawling team of 8 or 10 oxen in yokes, sometimes preceded by a couple of horses, is yet often to be seen creeping along, dragging after them an immense log of a clumsy Scotch plough; when 2, or at most 4 good horses, or even good oxen in collars, with the modern light plough, (which has been found to answer well by those who have tried it), would perform the same work, equally well, in a much shorter time. This last mode begins now to take place, particularly about the village. The farmers have at last perceived the advantage of a proper rotation of crops, and of cultivating such as are green, though, for want of inclosures, they can only be cultivated in an imperfect manner. A considerable quantity of the produce of the parish is exported. Were not that the case, it is believed, that populous as it is, it could maintain its own inhabitants. It has several mineral springs of the chalybeate kind, sending forth large streams of pleasant water, which, upon trial, has been found

found to be equally light with the Peterhead water. Its strengthening influence on the stomach, and power of increasing digestion, many of the inhabitants have experienced, though it has not yet been distinguished for any very powerful, or particular medicinal virtue.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate, as may be expected, from the situation and nature of the soil, is moist and cold. It is not, however, peculiarly unhealthy, though the inhabitants are by no means careful to guard against the defects of their situation; for their houses are generally low, and consequently very damp in the floors; nor is there, for the most part, any access to the houses of the lower ranks, but over a dunghill, which reaches to the very threshold; and whose pestilential steams, increasing the moisture of the air in their dwellings, must concur, with the nature of the climate, to multiply diseases, or to increase their power. As regard to their health, independent of cleanliness, ought, therefore, to excite the most indolent, to remove such nuisances to a greater distance. The diseases most frequent are, fevers, rheumatism, toothach, inflammation of the eyes, coughs, pulmonary consumptions; and, in some old people, humid asthma, especially in the winter and spring. Acidities in the stomach, flatulency in the bowels, and other symptoms of dyspepsia, are frequent complaints; more especially since potatoes have become such a common article of food, and chiefly among the lower ranks, who use no pepper. These two last years, many more have been afflicted with jaundice than formerly, both in this parish and neighbourhood, and even in the adjacent parts of Murray and Aberdeenshire, but from what cause is uncertain. Scrophulous habits are also unhappily too common, particularly among such as are employed in the linnen manufacture. It is commonly observed, that many more fevers of the low ner-

vous kind, and greatly fewer of the inflammatory, have prevailed for the last 20 years; and that patients do not now bear such liberal evacuations by blood-letting, as before that period. Whether this be not owing to some particular alteration in the seasons, may be a question not easily solved.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—There are 6 proprietors in the parish, the Earls of Findlater and Fife, Stewart of Whitely and Achanacy, Stewart of Birkenburn, and Brodie of Lethen. The valued rent is L. 5332 : 18 : 4 Scotch. The real rent cannot exactly be ascertained, as some of the heritors have declined giving any information on the subject. As nearly as can be conjectured, it is rather above, than under L. 3000 Sterling. Within the present century, there were 14 heritors in the parish, most of them resident. Of the 6 existing heritors, only 1 is resident, *viz.* Mr Stewart of Birkenburn.

*Population.*—By the return made to Dr Webster, in 1755, it appears that the population of Keith was as follows:

Protestants,	-	-	2653	} In all 2683.
Papists,	-	-	30	

In 1783, according to a roll, laid before the heritors and gentlemen of the parish by the minister, the population was 3583 souls: At present, (1791) from a very accurate survey it appears, that there are only 3057 souls.

Of these, the number who live in	Between 30 & 40,	-	476
villages, is,	1662	Between 40 & 50,	422
In the country,	1395	Between 50 & 60,	347
Of males,	1709	Between 60 & 70,	187
Of females,	1348	Between 70 & 80,	38
Of persons under 11 years of age,	592	Between 80 & 90,	3
Between 20 & 30,	570	Aged 96 *,	1
			Among

\* This is a woman who says she was 18 or 20 in 1716.

Among these, there are 312 Dissenters, including children, of whom there are of the Associate Congregation, 131  
 Papists \*, - - - - - 122  
 Scotch Episcopalians, - - - - - 59  
 If the parish registers be exact, the average of births for the following periods, are as under :

From January 1701, to ditto 1704, the average is,	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
From January 1743, to ditto 1746, -	91 $\frac{2}{3}$
From January 1770, to ditto 1773, -	65 $\frac{2}{3}$
From January 1787, to ditto 1790, -	62 $\frac{1}{3}$

It is, however, to be observed, that few of the Dissenters enter their childrens names in the parish registers. The average of marriages for the last 3 years, is 14 $\frac{2}{3}$ . From the above statement it appears, that since 1755, population in Keith has increased upon the whole 374, but since 1783, it has decreased 526. Since the writer of this had the charge of the parish, or for three years back, it has decreased 90. This may easily be accounted for, from the state of the manufactures.

*Manufactures.*—The principal branches of manufacture carried on in Keith are flax-dressing, spinning, and weaving. The two first of these, during the above mentioned period, have been in a very unprosperous condition; so much so, that many flax-dressers have been dismissed by their employers, and, with their families, have left the place. This decline

\* It is observable, that the Papists have increased 92 since the year 1755. This increase is not owing to new conversions, of which very few occur, but to the migration of several Popish families from the Enzie, where, when the family of Gordon, the superiors of that country, were Popish, they greatly abounded, and where they are still very numerous. There are no instances of longevity, except as above. It may, however be observed, that there is a couple yet alive, whose ages together make 171, and who have now eaten 64 Christmas dinners together, since they were man and wife.

decline in the yarn trade arises from three causes, the prevailing demand for cotton cloths, which are now afforded at a very cheap rate; the advanced price of Dutch flax, the only flax used by our manufacturers of yarn, and a very large importation of linen yarn from Ireland to Glasgow, the principal mart for Keith yarn. It may also be added, from their neglecting to take care, that all the yarn manufactured by them was of good quality, owing to which it had fallen into disrepute; this last cause, however, will soon be removed, as the manufacturers have resolved to receive no yarn from their spinners, but what is of the very best quality. There are also in the parish, a tannage, a distillery, and, of late, a bleachfield, very complete in its apparatus, which has been erected at a very considerable expence on the banks of the Isla, and is allowed to equal in execution any bleachfield in the North.

*Villages and Markets.*—There are 4 villages in the parish, one of old standing, the Kirk-town of Keith, partly feued by the predecessors of the family of Findlater, and partly feued by the ministers, and standing on the glebe. This village is greatly on the decline, and almost a ruin; it contains 192 inhabitants. About the year 1750, the late Lord Findlater divided a barren muir, and feued it out in small lots, according to a regular plan, still adhered to; on which there now stands a large, regular, and tolerably thriving village, called *New Keith*, containing 1075 inhabitants. The feus contain 30 feet in front by 70, at a feu-duty of 10s. *per annum*. This village is the residence of all the manufacturers of note in the parish: according to the success of their business, therefore, it must either prosper or decline. It enjoys the benefit of a well frequented, and plentifully supplied weekly market; it has, therefore, provisions of all kinds in plenty, and at a moderate price. It has also 4 annual

nual fairs; one in September, of very old standing, and which, some 60 or 70 years ago, was the general mart for merchant goods from Aberdeen to Kirkwall; it is still the best frequented market in the north for black cattle and horses\*. Soon after the commencement of the village of New Keith, the late Lord Fife began to erect a village on the north side of the parish, and then feued out a considerable tract of land, called the *New Town of New Mill*, to distinguish it from another town nigh it, called *New Mill*, which is also his Lordship's property, but was never feued. This *New Town* contains 330 inhabitants, of which there are a very few weavers, who are the only manufacturers; the rest, excepting 5 or 6 families, consist of very poor people, who have fixed their abode there, for the conveniency of the land and mofs. The old town, called *New Mill*, contains 65 inhabitants.

*Tenantry,*

\* The weekly market in Keith, (which, before the erection of the new village, was held in the old), is well supplied with provisions. These, of late years, have greatly increased in price. The average price of oat-meal 50 years ago, was 6 s. or 8 s. for the boll of 16 measured pecks, weighing upwards of 10 stone; beef, 1 d. *per lb.*; mutton, from 4 d. to 6 d. *per quarter of 6 and 7 lb.*; a fed goose, from 10 d. to 1 s.; a hen, 3 d.; a duck, 4 d.; a large chicken, 1 d.; butter, 3 d. *per lb.* of 22 Dutch ounces; cheese, from 9 d. to 1 s. *per quarter*, according to its age. It is, however, to be observed, that, at that time, fresh meat was only to be had at certain seasons, and such as used much meat, killed for their own consumption; now, however, well fed fresh meat is always to be had in the market, every week throughout the year, which, with other provisions, now sells at the following average prices: Meal, which is extremely variable, from 10 s. to 12 s. *per boll*, of 8 stone; beef, from 2½ d. to 4 d. *per lb.* according to the season; mutton, from 2 d. to 3½ d. *per lb.*; a goose, 2 s. 6 d.; a duck, 10 d.; a hen, 8 d.; butter, 8 d. *per lb.* of 22 Dutch ounces. Though an inland parish, fish is plentiful, and generally as cheap as at the shore. At the above mentioned period, men servants received of wages *per annum* from L. 1 : 6 : 8 to L. 1 : 13 : 4; maids, from 12 s. to L. 1,

*Tenantry, Servitudes, and Cattle.*—The farms in general are small, renting from L. 20 to L. 40, which is paid partly in victual, and partly in money, but without any stated proportion. There are a very few farms from about L. 60, to L. 100; only one farm is completely inclosed, and two partially. The villagers occupy many parks and acres, which are in a rapid state of improvement, and which are not yet rented, even when most contiguous, above L. 20 Sterling *per acre*. The rent of the farms is very various, according to the quality of the soil, and state of improvement; probably from 5s. to 15s. *per acre*. The farmers are exceedingly sober and industrious, and yet they are far from being in a comfortable situation. There is hardly such a thing as a farmer, with a family, bettering his circumstances; but many instances of farmers of sobriety and industry, in spite of all their care, spending the capital with which they began. The expence of labour is now so great, and the rent of land so high, that the profits of a small farm are not sufficient, with the utmost frugality, or even parsimony, to maintain a family; the holders of such farms find it exceedingly difficult to support credit at all, and very often, particularly when the landholders or their factors are rigid in exacting their dues, sink to poverty. However hurtful it may be to the production of a numerous and healthy population, large farms are increasing, and must increase, in order to afford their holders a subsistence; and the tenants of smaller possessions will be under the necessity of devoting themselves to manufactures of  
some

L. 1, 2 s. besides board and lodging. Now, besides these, men servants receive from L. 4 to L. 6, according to their strength and capacity; maids, from L. 2 to L. 2, 5 s. It is difficult to ascertain the expence incurred by a day-labourer and his family. When such a family is not extremely numerous, and both the man and the wife are sober and industrious, they generally enjoy the necessaries of life in plenty.

some kind or other. To them, if they were better informed, that should not be a disagreeable necessity; for, it is certain, that, in most places of this island, tradesmen, if sober and industrious, of almost every denomination, can live and bring up their families, much more comfortably than they can do. Here the tenants are subjected to very few services, and these few are seldom exacted. They are bound, however, to carry their farm victual to whatever port it is to be shipped at, and to perform kirk and mill services, as is usual in most parishes. The multures belong to the proprietors of the several lands, except in one instance; the small estate of Edintevie being thirled to a mill of Lord Fife's. The heritors, however, think proper to oblige their respective tenants to grind at their own mills, the multures of which vary; sometimes the 10th, sometimes the 11th part is exacted, which is accounted a great bar to improvement. Among these tenants, with the village feuers, there are 381 oxen, 523 horses, 645 cows, 990 young cattle, 39 young horses, and 2240 sheep.

*Language.*—In this parish, and in all the neighbourhood, the language spoken is the Scotch dialect of the English language. All the old names of places are evidently derived from the Gaelic, which language is generally spoken in a detached corner of the parish, by a colony from various districts of the Highlands; who being indigent, and supported by begging, or their own alertness, are allured there by the abundance of moss, and the vicinity of a very populous and plentiful country. Many instances of the above mentioned derivations might be given: for example, *Aultmore*, signifying 'the great burn, or brook;' *Altonbuy*, 'the yellow island;' *Bog-bain*, 'the white moss;' *Achanacy*, 'the field in the muir or desert,' &c; all  
which



which derivations are evidently confirmed by the local situations, and natural appearances of the several places.

*Church and Poor* \*.—The church is a capacious, though not very commodious building. At present it is in good repair, being lately put into that condition, at the expence of several hundred pounds. The manse and offices are in a state of rapid decay, though repaired since the present minister's incumbency. The living is L. 88 : 17 : 6 in money, 32 bolls of meal, and about L. 12 of feu-duty and rents from the old village. The poor within the parish, receiving alms, are extremely numerous, occasioned principally by the great influx of highlanders above mentioned, most of whom are very indigent; and during the summer months, they range this and the neighbouring parishes, and are a great encroachment on what is truly the property of the native poor. For the support of these, there are no mortified or public funds, besides the interest of the very small sum of L. 30 Sterling, and the weekly or occasional collections, which may amount to about L. 32 annually; which sums are almost entirely devoted to the use of such poor, as are unable to leave their beds or houses, or make any exertion for their support at all, which, at present, and generally, may be about 30 in number. This statement evidently

\* The oldest session-records in Keith, bear date only 1686; at which time Sir James Strachan of Thornton, was minister of Keith. In the year 1690, he was deprived of his living for non-conformity to the new Government. After his deprivation, for some time the people of Keith were very seldom accommodated with preaching. On that account the parishioners and heritors agreed with a Mr Lachlan Rose, to officiate as minister at Keith. In 1694, some complaints against this Rose were lodged before the Committee of Assembly for the north, then sitting at Elgin; which Committee declared Rose an intruder, and proclaimed the kirk vacant. This vacancy, however, was not supplied till Mr John Christie's admission in 1700.

dently shews, that these small funds are by no means sufficient, for the maintenance of those to whom they are devoted. This deficiency, however, is, in general, amply made up, either by the generosity of their relations, or by the charity and liberality of their neighbours. For it ought to be recorded, to the honour of the inhabitants of Keith, that in liberality to the poor they are not exceeded, it is believed, by any people of their circumstances and station in Scotland. Besides the above sum, there is annually collected from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling, for the benefit of the Infirmary of Aberdeen.

*School.*—The parish of Keith has long enjoyed, with little interruption, the benefit of a good school, to which, before other able schoolmasters were so frequent, there was a great resort of young lads for the benefit of education. At present it is in a very prosperous state, the office of schoolmaster being filled by a gentleman fully capable, and of the most indefatigable application. Besides the usual salary and perquisites, he enjoys annually 300 merks Scotch from a mortification, of which a brief account is subjoined\*.

## 3 H

*Roads,*

\* In the year 1647, Alexander Ogilvie of Edindeach, clerk to the Signet, mortified his lands and mill of Edindeach, "for building and upholding a school-house, and maintaining a schoolmaster in the parochin of Keith," appointing the minister and elders trustees for the said mortification. In the year 1687, the laird of Braco, ancestor to Lord Fife, raised a process as titular of teinds, for abstracted teinds, against the person who was then schoolmaster; obtained decret before the Commissary of Murray, and got the lands adjudged to him for these teinds. In consequence of that adjudication, the laird of Braco, got possession of the mortified lands, paying annually to the schoolmaster only L. 68 Scotch. In the year 1747, a schoolmaster of spirit succeeded, who being assured by good counsel, that he had a right to these mortified lands, raised a process of reduction of the deed of adjudication. This process he maintained for ten years before the Court of Session. His little funds being then exhausted,

*Roads, Bridges, and Post-office.*—The roads are, in general, in very bad repair; partly owing to the wetness and depth of the soil; partly to the injudicious and imperfect mode of repair, and partly to the statute labour not being regularly exacted, by which the roads in this corner were originally made, and which is the only means of their support. Within these few years, Lord Findlater's factor in that district, has exerted himself in a very laudable manner to remedy that defect; has introduced a more judicious and perfect mode of repair, and is more regular and strict in exacting the statute labour; for which, though the inhabitants in the mean time, murmur a little, he deserves their best thanks; and were his commendable zeal properly seconded, by the other heritors and factors, the complaint of bad roads in Keith would soon be no more heard of. The parish is tolerably supplied in bridges, mostly new and in good repair. In the new village there is a Post-office, to which the letters are brought by runners from Fochabers thrice a week;—an office, which, from its increasing consequence, ought to be more liberally supported and supplied with runners. It ought to have at least 6 instead of 3. Without this increase of runners, it can never properly answer the purpose; for when there is a necessity of answering any letter in course  
of

ed, and finding no support from session, presbytery, or public funds of the church, and perhaps a little softened by the promise of a living in the church, from the laird of Braco, now become Lord Braco, he was induced to consent to a compromise. By that compromise, the mortified lands were valued, and found to be worth 300 merks of rent annually. This sum, Lord Braco engaged to pay to the schoolmaster and his successors in office, annually, in all time coming, upon condition of his being allowed to retain the lands. The compromise was afterwards ratified, by the presbytery of Strathbogie, and the Synod of Murray.

of post, there is no possibility of doing it, but by an express to Fochabers, which is a great drawback on the increasing trade of the place, and calls for the exertion of all who wish well to its prosperity, to endeavour to procure its removal. The additional expence ought not to be put in competition with the additional advantages. This expence its revenue may well bear, which, within these 30 years, has increased an hundred fold.

*Remarkable Events.*—Tradition has recorded only two skirmishes, that have happened in the parish: One in 1746, when about 70 of the Campbells, and 30 of Kingston's horse, were surpris'd by the rebels in the old village, and dispers'd or taken after considerable slaughter. The other about a century before, when a Peter Roy Macgregor, the head of a band of robbers, who infested that country, was taken, and his gang completely dispers'd by Gordon of Glengerack, then one of the heritors, after a desperate resistance. In July 1789, during a violent thunder storm, there fell a very remarkable shower of hail, which fortunately extended only to a few farms on the south side of the parish: where it fell, it so completely ruined the crop, that several fields were plow'd down, and those, that were spar'd, produced nothing worth the expence of cutting. The hail-stones were fully the size of pistol bullets, very irregular in their shape, mostly angular, bearing the appearance of two or three large hail-stones join'd; though the weather was exceedingly sultry, and the ground very wet, they were not completely dissolv'd in three days. In the year 1782, there was the greatest deficiency in the crop, that has happened, at least since the years of famine, at the beginning of the century. Had not the noblemen, gentlemen, and principal inhabitants exerted themselves, (which they did in a very laudable manner,) and procur'd a very large importation  
of

of victual, thousands might have perished for want. Very little of the grain was found fit for feed, and by a survey, made under the inspection of gentlemen of skill, to ascertain the real state of the crop, it was found, at an average, to be sufficient to supply the inhabitants only five months, without reserving any for feed. In some of the latest farms, the produce could not supply the farmer's family, above six weeks or three months. Ten bolls of oats frequently yielded no more than one boll of meal, and that too of a quality which, in other years, would not have been used, but deemed only fit for hogs. Notwithstanding such dreadful scarcity, not one single individual perished for want, though many hundreds were on short allowance.

*Manners and Character.*—As there are no persons of independent fortune within the parish, the inhabitants are distinguishedly sober and industrious. Several of them have thus raised themselves to easy circumstances, which enables them to enjoy the comforts of life and of society, in the greatest perfection. Unaccustomed to the elegancies and luxuries of life, or ignorant of them, they feel not their want; they are not disquieted with their desire; satisfied with their neat abundance, they enjoy it with satisfaction; they shew it with pleasure among their equals, and extend it with liberality to such as are in want. The taverns are now nearly deserted; 20 years ago, there was more spent in alehouses in one month, than is now spent in 12. All ranks are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion; maintain, in general, great decorum of behaviour, and value themselves on respectability of character, which excites them, of consequence, to support it. Nor are they, in any gradation of society, notorious for any particular vices. They have no pastimes or holidays, except dancing

dancing on Christmas and New Year's day. They are generally sensible, shrewd, and intelligent. The tradesmen and manufacturers appear more chearful, and seem happier, than the farmers and their tenants. This evident difference naturally arises, from the difficulty the latter now find, to procure a subsistence. For though the generality of the tradesmen and manufacturers live more expensively, than most of the farmers, several of them are, notwithstanding, improving their circumstances, while the farmers, with a very few exceptions indeed, are doing the reverse.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish cannot boast of having given birth to any eminently distinguished characters, if we except the illustrious Mr JAMES FERGUSON, well known for his mechanical and philosophical genius and publications.—There are no birds or quadrupeds, either stationary or migratory, but what are common in this corner of the country; nor are there any breeds of animals peculiarly valuable.—There are no curiosities, either natural or artificial, in the parish, worth recording. There are the remains of several Druidical circles, which are now mostly demolished, for the sake of their stones. There is one yet very distinct on the top of a hill, vulgarly called the *Card's bill*, probably from the Gaelic word *carald*, which signifies a friend; the true name of the hill may therefore be the *bill of friends*, originating from the brotherly Druids, who worshipped on its top. A little below this circle, there is a very fine fountain of excellent water, called *Taber-chalich*, an evident corruption of the Gaelic words, *Taber-chalaich*, signifying the *Old Wife's Well*, having been perhaps, of old, frequented by such persons, for some supposed sanative power, though now fallen into disrepute. Near another of these circles, there is another well of the same kind, to which some persons

sons reforted, even in the memory of persons still alive, always leaving some offering behind them; but it also has lost its fame. A little below the old village, there is a beautiful fall of water, called the *Lin of Keith*, where the Isla precipitates itself over a pretty high rock, forming a very pleasant cascade. On the top of the rock, which overhangs this cascade, stand the scanty remains of a once large ruin, said to have formerly belonged to a gentleman of the name of Oliphant, who had been one of the Senators of the College of Justice. Tradition gives no particular account of this ruin; it does not, however, seem to have been of any very great antiquity.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF CRUDEN,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER COCK.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

CRUDEN, or CRUDANE, as it is spelled in old records, takes its rise from the famous battle, which was fought in the beginning of the 11th century, between Malcolm II. and Canute, the son of Sueno, who was afterwards King of England, Denmark, Norway, and part of Sweden. The armies met about a mile to the west of Slains castle, the family seat of the Earl of Errol, upon a plain in the bottom of the bay of Ardendraught\*, near which the Danes then had a castle, the ruins of which are still to be seen. The Scots had the victory. The night succeeding the battle, both parties lay at a small distance from

\* A considerable portion of the Earl of Errol's estate is called the barony of Ardendraught, a name which is said to signify *the Old Danish Roads.*



from each other, and the next day presented such a view of the field, as turned their thoughts from war to peace. The conditions were soon drawn up and agreed upon\*.

Malcolm and Canute swore to the observation of the articles, and faithfully performed their respective obligations. Canute, with all his countrymen, left Scotland; and Malcolm not only caused the dead bodies of the Danes to be interred with honour and decency, but also commanded a chapel to be built upon the spot, which, to perpetuate the memory of the event, he dedicated to *Olaus*, the tutelar saint or patron, both of Denmark and Norway †. The village, near which the chapel was built, was

\* The terms concluded on were,

1. That the Danes and Norwegians should withdraw their persons and effects from Scotland, and within a limited time evacuate those places which they held in Murray and Buchan.

2. That during the lives of both Kings, Malcolm and Sueno, neither of the nations should attempt any hostility against the other, nor be assisting to such as should.

3. That the field of battle should be consecrated, after the rites then in use, and made a cemetery, or burying place for the dead.

4. That in it the Danes, as well as the Scots, should be decently and honourably interred.

† No vestige of this chapel is now to be seen, but the place is well known; and, as the ground about it is sandy, the bones can be dug up in several places. None of the houses of the village now remain. But some of the hearth stones, with ashes upon them, were dug up some time ago, in casting a ditch for an inclosure. In the present church-yard, which is about a mile to the westward of the place, where the old church was, there is a black marble grave stone, said to have been sent over by the Danish King, to be laid upon some of his officers, who were slain in the

was called *Croju-Dane*, or *Cruden*, which signifies, *kill the Dane*; and there is a tradition, that during the confusion of the battle, the Danish military chest was hid near that place, but it has never yet been found.

*Extent, Situation, Surface and Soil.*—The parish is a very regular compact field, extending about 8 or 9 miles along the British Ocean towards the south, and about 7 or 8 miles into the land westward. It is situated in that division of Aberdeenshire, called Buchan, in the presbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. The soil is various. A large portion of it is deep rich clay, which, with very little exception, extends along the coast till within a little of the eastern extremity, which is the only strong piece of ground in the parish. All the rest of it, except the mosses and a few banks, could easily be made arable. Towards the W. and N. the ground in general is light and gravelly, or black and mossy. There is very little loam in the parish, but some excellent fields of yellow soil, upon a clay bottom. There is an immense quantity of peat moss, which extends all along the march to the N. There are also patches of moss in other places, and a pretty large portion of the moss of Loch Lundie, on the side next to Slains.

*Villages.*—There are 4 villages or sea towns, altogether occupied by sea-faring people, and consequently situated along the coast, *viz.* *Long-haven*, *Buller's Buchan*, *Ward* and *Whinnyfold*. None of them are very populous, having

VOL. V.

3 I

been

the battle. There is no inscription upon it. But the incumbent, upon enquiring into the meaning of a groove in the middle of the stone, was told, there had been a plate of copper, inserted into it, with some inscription. The different places where the dead have been buried, do yet strongly mark the field of battle.

been much neglected of late. The whole only employ 8 boats, with 6 men and a boy to each boat when fully manned; but at present, few of them have their full complement of men, and some are laid up. It appears very probable, that a tolerable harbour could be made out at Ward. It is the eastern boundary of the bay of Arden-draught, which extends about two miles along the coast, with a beach of fine sand, and a pretty large field of bent at the back of it. If a small brook, which passes along the S. end of the Earl of Errol's gardens, were introduced into the sea, at the end of the beach next the Ward, there is every reason to believe, that a very safe landing place could be made for boats or larger vessels, and perhaps it might be the means of forming a very valuable salmon fishing.

*Climate and Diseases, &c.*—The climate is various. The E. end of the parish is often involved in fog, when there is none in the W. And in warm weather, the fog will sometimes extend, from a quarter, to a half or even a whole mile, over the land, next the ocean, when all the rest of the parish, except a little at the E. end, will be quite clear, at least from about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, to 3 or 4 in the evening, when the fog becomes general. Some parts of the parish have their crops as early, and others as late as any where in the county. Epidemical diseases sometimes prevail, yet the place, upon the whole, cannot be said to be unhealthy. One man died in the end of last year, in the 101st year of his age; another a few years ago, in the 99th, and several above 90. There are some now living above 80, and even 90. Since 1788, epidemical diseases have prevailed much, and been terribly fatal. The malignant sore throat, and putrid fever, succeeded one another, and, notwithstanding every warning, were  
much

much spread, by the imprudence of those, who went to visit the sick. One circumstance is worth taking notice of, namely, that of all those, who attended the *late wake* \* of a person, who died of the putrid fever, not one escaped catching the infection. The practice of inoculating for the small-pox is become pretty general, and few lives are lost by that distemper. Rheumatic and consumptive complaints are most prevalent.

*Waters.*—There are no rivers, properly speaking, in the parish, but two or three very good streams of water. One of them drives 8 mills. There are two chalybeate springs. One at the foot of the rocks at Buller's Buchan, said to be full as strong a mineral as that of Peterhead; the other upon the top of the rock beside Dunbuy, over which the late Earl of Errol built a house. This is a very strong mineral water, though weaker than that of Peterhead.

*Natural Curiosities, &c.*—The Pot of Buller's Buchan is so well known, that a description would be superfluous. The rock of Dunbuy, to which the migratory birds resort, and in which there is one of the most magnificent arches upon the coast, is surrounded by the sea, and at no time can be got at, but by a boat. The Bow of Pitwartlachie, a grand arch to which the kitty-weaks resort, has a long ravine near it, of prodigious height, and very narrow, through which the noise of the waves is so reverberated, as to resemble the sound of a multitude of carriages driving furiously upon a causeway. There are two very grand arches, one above the other, at the E. end of the peninsula of Slains castle. There is another near them, high up on a rock,  
through

\* This is a practice common in many parts of Scotland, and not yet exploded here, of people sitting up all night with the dead corps, in the chamber of the deceased.

through which the sea dashes, when the wind blows strong from the E. and which forms a beautiful cascade, in full view of the drawing room windows. One rock near these, is of the form of a round tower, and seemingly set upon its base, with a very open joint. A famous antiquary, who saw it this summer, is of opinion, that it will not stand much above 10 or 12 years longer. Of caves, there are a good number, but none of them very remarkable. There are the remains of a Druidical temple, upon a rising ground, about a mile to the W. of the church. There is an artificial mount, about a mile to the S. of it, called the High Law; and another pretty near the Druid's temple, called the Moat, at the foot of which a small stone box was plucked out, a few years ago, by the harrows, when dressing the field beside it. There was nothing in the box, which was composed of separate pieces of stone, neatly put together, without any cement, and placed in the earth. A little to the E. of the Moat, is the *Gallow Hill*, where the graves are still very distinct, and mark the effects of feudal tyranny.

*Agriculture and Manufactures.*—Husbandry can only be said to be in its infancy here. There are but few farms in good order. The spirit of farming seems, however, to be spreading abroad, and from the appearances of marl, which have lately been discovered, great expectations may be formed. The crops are barley, bear, oats, pease and turnips; with wheat and potatoes, for domestic use. The incumbent has seen 15 acres in one farm, laid out in turnips; and the general run is from about a half, to 7 or 8 acres. There is seldom any fallow, till this year, that the Earl of Errol has 20 acres. Much the greater part of farm work is done by horses; oxen, however, are employed in all the different branches of husbandry. The farms are of all sizes. From 16 or 20 acres, they rise to  
above

above 700.—There are three manufactories of thread carried on to a pretty considerable extent. And were there any inland villages, to the inhabitants of which certain parts of the work could be given out, these manufactories would be soon conducted on a very enlarged scale.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants amounts to 2028. In 1778, the number was 2120. But the malignant distempers, which have prevailed since 1788, account in some measure for the difference. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 2549. The births, &c. for the last 7 years, are as follows :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Birtbs.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1786	41	31	16
1787	38	31	7
1788	36	57	14
1789	38	62	13
1790	33	46	10
1791	30	46	17
1792	34	49	17
	250	322	94

The year is computed from the last day of September.

*Rent and Proprietors.*—The parish consists of 80 ploughs of land, 70 of which belong to the Earl of Errol. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5314 : 16 : 4 Scotch. There are in all 5 proprietors, of whom 2 are resident.

*Church and Poor.*—There are 3 clergymen in the parish, the ministers of the Established Church, of the English Episcopal, and of the Scotch Episcopal. The number

ber of communicants of the Established Church this year was 713, and it is supposed, that those of the other two, do not, between them, exceed 360. The parish church was rebuilt 16 years ago. And, what is rather a singular circumstance, all the outer walls, which are rough ashler work, are built out of *one stone*, upon which hallow fires formerly used to be burnt, and which also served as a land-mark to the fishers, when at sea, being upon the top of a gravelly eminence. The Earl of Errol is patron. The stipend is L. 35 : 11 : 1 $\frac{4}{5}$  in money, 48 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear ; with a manse and offices, and 6 acres of glebe. A process of augmentation, by desire of the Earl of Errol, is going on. His Lordship has also given orders for building a new manse, as the present one is very old and ruinous. This, to be sure, is rather an uncommon example, but, at the same time, worthy of the Lord High Constable of Scotland, and the son of a man, who made the happiness of mankind his study ; and who possessed that amiable talent, so rare to be met with, of securing the regard of all who approached him, and sending them away pleased with themselves. The poor's funds consist of L. 130 laid out at interest, the weekly collections, and the penalties. There are about 70 people upon the poor's roll. The contributions from the two chapels, for their support, are not considerable.

*General Character.*—The people are sober and industrious. Except one smuggling business, there has been no trial, before the Court of Justiciary, of any one belonging to the parish, these 14 years. Some time ago smuggling was carried on to a great extent, but it is now almost entirely given up.

*Miscellaneous*

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In 1782 and 1783, the parish suffered exceedingly by the bad crops, and some of the tenants have hardly yet recovered them. At the same time, in some places, the meal was very good and wholesome, and the parish, upon the whole, would have been able to have supported itself. The crops of late years have been exceedingly good. The parish is a beautiful field, and a noble subject for improvement. If the small brook, formerly mentioned, could be carried into the sea at Ward, and a harbour made out, that could receive small vessels, which might lie in safety at all seasons, (of which there appears the highest degree of probability,) a flourishing village would be the certain consequence. But if the bottom of the brook could be deepened, so as to receive such vessels as generally trade upon this coast, then, a very fine town would soon be built, and many a vessel saved, which, in time of danger or distress, durst not look at Peterhead, and would not be able to reach Aberdeen.—Were the Earl of Errol to employ a small sum annually, in carrying forward such improvements as the situation of the parish points out, and resolutely to persist in seeing them judiciously executed, he would not only have the glory of improving and beautifying a large tract of country, but the satisfaction of being proprietor of one of the finest pieces of property, in the North of Scotland.



## NUMBER XXXI.

## PARISH OF NORTH-BERWICK,

(COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.)

*By the Rev. MR HENRY D. HILL\*.*

---

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

THE parish of North-Berwick is situated near the mouth of the Frith of Forth, in the presbytery and county of Haddington, and in the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It extends along the sea coast about 3 English miles, from W. to E. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  from N. to S. It has never been exactly measured, but may contain somewhat more than 4000 acres, the whole of which is arable, excepting the hill, called North-Berwick-Law, and about 89 acres of links. The grounds in this parish are, in general, inclosed, and as the utility of inclosures, is universally acknowledged in this part of the country, they will probably be entirely so, in the course of a very few years

\* A considerable part of the materials of this account was collected by the late Rev. Mr Mathew Murray, and transcribed from a MS. found amongst his papers after his death, he having died before the account was completed.

years. The inclosures are either stone dikes, ditch and hedge, or hedges with a small stone dike, two, or two feet and a half in height, behind them. This last mode of inclosing has been only adopted of late, but is much approved of. There are many stripes of planting and clumps of trees, not only round the seats of the gentlemen in the parish, but in different quarters of it, which both afford much shelter, and greatly adorn the face of the country.

*Soil, Cultivation and Produce.*—The soil of this parish is, in general, rich, fertile, and well cultivated, producing large crops of all the different grains sown in Scotland, as wheat, barley, oats, pease and beans. No hemp is raised, and the quantity of flax is inconsiderable, being only for private use. Turnips are cultivated, but not to a great extent, as the farmers reckon the ground to be in general too strong and wet for that useful plant, and on that account commonly prefer sowing wheat upon their fallows. Potatoes are raised in considerable quantities, and, during the winter, form a principal part of the food of the poorer classes of the people. A large extent of ground is always in pasture; but the quantity cannot be ascertained, as the farmers are constantly employed in plowing up some fields, and sowing others with grass seeds. A good deal of red clover is also sown annually, for the support of the working horses, as, during summer, they are generally fed in houses with cut grass. The four different kinds of grain above mentioned, (reckoning pease and beans as one,) are sown in nearly equal quantities. The proportion of barley has, of late, been the least. Beans were introduced here only about 30 years ago, but, where the soil will admit of it, are now generally substituted instead of pease. They answer equally well, either on strong clay or light loam, but can never be sown with advantage,

either on thin clay, or on light land with a gravelly bottom. The common method of sowing them is after the plough, in every second furrow, which sets them in drills, separated from each other at the distance of about 18 inches. The intermediate spaces are cleaned, either with a small plough drawn by one horse, or by hand hoeing, or both ways, which, indeed, is the best method. Beans, when properly managed, yield very large returns, particularly in moist and wet seasons. The quantity sown is from 6 to 7 firlots or Winchester bushels, *per* Scotch acre. The species is the Scotch or Fife bean. When this culture was first introduced, the small English horse bean was frequently tried, but is now entirely laid aside, being found by experience to run too much to straw, and to be too late in ripening for this climate.

*Proprietors, Rent, &c.*—There are 7 heritors in this parish. The three principal proprietors, who possess together above 9 tenths of the whole property, usually reside in it. One farm consists of more than 400 acres, and a few of less than 100, but by far the greatest number are from 100 to 200 Scotch acres in extent. The number of farms has neither increased nor diminished for many years. The rent of land is here from 15 s. to L 2. 16 s. *per* acre. It has been gradually increasing for a considerable time, and on every new lease it still continues to rise.

*Population and Trade.*—The number of the inhabitants of this parish amounts to about 1300 of all ages, of whom above 700 live in the town of North-Berwick. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1412. North-Berwick is a royal burgh of considerable antiquity; but its old charter having been accidentally lost or destroyed, it obtained a new one from James VI. No manufactures are at present carried

carried on in it, to any extent. The only regular trade from the harbour consists in the exportation of grain.—A small quantity of kelp is annually made, from the sea weed cut from the rocks at low water ; but the driven sea ware is made use of as a manure.

*Church\* and Poor.*—The stipend of North-Berwick is worth, at an average, about L. 116 Sterling, and the glebe, which consists of 6 acres, is, from the richness of the soil, of considerable value.—The poor of this parish, although pretty numerous, are enabled to live comfortably, and none of them find it necessary to beg. They are supported partly by the kirk-session, partly by a fund of rather more than 20 guineas a year, left some time ago for their behoof, and partly by the liberality of the patron of the parish. The sum expended annually for their support amounts to about L. 90 Sterling.

*Tamtallan.*—The castle of Tamtallan, stands about 2 miles to the east of North-Berwick, on a high rock, overlooking the sea, by which it is surrounded on three sides. It is encompassed by two ditches, the inner of which appears to have been very deep. The entrance to the castle was by a draw-bridge. From the style of its architecture,  
it

\* At a small distance to the S. W. of the town, there are the ruins of a monastery. The eminence, on which they stand, commands a delightful prospect of the Frith of Forth, the coast of Fife, and several little islands, which lie about a mile or two from the shore. The monastery was founded by Duncan, Earl of Fife, who is supposed to have died A. D. 1154. It was governed by a prior and prioress, and possessed a very considerable property in Fife and Ayrshire. A small ruin, supposed to have been a chapel, belonging to the monastery, or to an hospital, stands a little to the east of the harbour. The adjacent ground was probably a burial place of the family of Douglas. In 1788, a seal with the inscription '*Sigillum Willielmi Domini de Douglas,*' was found in one of the vaults. This Lord Douglas lived about the year 1353.

it seems to have been of considerable antiquity, but the precise time, at which it was built, cannot be ascertained. It was formerly one of the strong holds of the family of Douglas, and was sold by the Marquis of Douglas to President Dalrymple. Lindsay of Pitscottie relates a siege of it by James V. when it held out against him for a considerable time. It was destroyed in 1639, by the covenanters, the Marquis of Douglas having favoured Charles I. A great part of it still remains, but is entirely in ruins.

*Hill and Island.*—NORTH-BERWICK LAW is a very beautiful conical hill, about half a mile from the sea. Its height is rather less than 800 feet, but the country round it is so level, that it is seen from a great distance on every side.—The BASS is a small island, or rock, within the frith, which lies about a mile from the south shore, and is accessible only by one narrow passage. On the top, there is a spring of fresh water. It affords excellent pasture for 20 or 30 sheep, and is frequented by immense flocks of sea birds, which continue there through the summer, and cover the sides of it with their nests and young. This rock, and the islands of *Ailsa* and *St Kilda*, are the only places in Scotland, which are frequented by the *solan goose*. It is a bird of passage, and continues here from the end of March, till the beginning of November. The family of Lauder were formerly proprietors of the Bass, and refused to sell it to several of the Scotch Kings, who wished to purchase it. Upon the decay of that family, it was sold, in 1671, to Charles II. During the reign of that Prince, and of James II. it was employed as a state prison. After the Revolution, a desperate banditti got possession of it, and by means of a large boat, which they hoisted up and down the rock at pleasure, committed several robberies on shore, and took a number of ves-

sels

tels at sea. They held it the last of any place in Scotland for James ; but having at length lost their boat, and not receiving their usual supply of provisions from France, they were obliged to surrender. The island was soon after given to President Dalrymple, and is still in the possession of his family\*.

\* A more full account of the Bafs, the castle of Tamtallan, and the Abbey of North-Berwick, may be found in Grose's Antiquities of Scotland.

## N U M B E R   X X X I I .

## P A R I S H   O F   O C H I L T R E E ,

(C O U N T Y   O F   A Y R . )

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM THOMSON.*

---

*Extent, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Ochiltree is situated in the presbytery of Ayr, and in that district of the county of Ayr, denominated Kyle. The church and village of Ochiltree lie about 11 miles eastward from the town of Ayr, on the south side of the river Luggar, and on the road that leads from that town to Dumfries. The extent of the parish is about six miles from north to south, and about five miles from east to west. The parish of Stair was formerly included in that of Ochiltree, and many of the lands of Stair still continue to pay stipend to the minister of Ochiltree; but they were disjoined about 300 years ago.

*Rivers.*

*Rivers.*—The *Luggar*, running to the north west, bounds the parish for about two miles, and a little farther down forms a conjunction with the river *Ayr*. The water of *Burnock*, rising on the southern extremity of the parish, runs nearly due north, and joins the *Luggar*, at the village of *Ochiltree*, and cuts off a stripe of the parish of about half a mile broad to the eastward. The *Coyl*, running in nearly the same direction, touches the parish of *Ochiltree* in some points on the westward.

*General Appearance.*—The face of the parish is pretty level, undulated by gently rising hillocks, but towards the south it swells into higher ridges. There is a thriving plantation, belonging to the Countess Dowager of *Glencairn*, which stretches from east to west, almost across the parish, nearly parallel to the *Ayr* road. And the neighbouring plantations of *Barskimming*, *Auchinleck*, and *Dumfries* house, afford a fine prospect to a great part of the parish of *Ochiltree*.

*Cultivation, &c.*—The land is mostly employed in tillage, and feeding black cattle, there being only 3 or 4 sheep farms upon the higher grounds towards the south. The farmers chiefly cultivate and depend on an oat crop; they sow also a little bear, but no wheat or rye. The land consists of a strong clay soil, *spouty* in some places, but producing good crops. Black cattle thrive very well, and considerable quantities of butter and cheese are made for sale.

*Minerals.*—There is only one small coal pit, in the western extremity of the parish, which produces a kind of coal without much smoke, used for drying oats; but there is abundance of coal in the neighbouring parishes of *Stair*, *Cumnock*,



nock, and Auchinleck. There is no limestone in the parish, that can be advantageously wrought, but it is brought from the neighbouring parishes.—There is some marle, though not of the best kind.

*Roads.*—The parish might be much more improved, were there any roads through it; but at present there is not one made road, excepting the turnpike road to Ayr formerly mentioned, and another small portion of road, that crosses a corner of the north west side of the parish. It would be much for the interest of the proprietors, to attend to the state of the roads, and to the funds allotted for that purpose, there being L. 60 annually collected, of which L. 20 goes to the repair of the toll road to Ayr. The rest is otherwise applied, but unfortunately not to roads within the boundaries of this parish.

*Proprietors, Rent, Church, &c.*—The proprietors are ten in number, but Lady Glencairn is possessed of about three fifths of the whole parish. On her estate there is an old mansion house, situated at the east end of the village of Ochiltree, which is the present residence of the minister, the manse being entirely in ruins\*. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5213 Scotch. The real rent at present is about L. 3000 Sterling and upwards. There is a good new church built about three years ago. The present incumbent was settled in April last. The stipend, on an average, is about L. 95 Sterling. The right of patronage is vested in the Countess Dowager of Glencairn. The school in the village

\* There is another old ruin on the Luggar, a mile to the north west of Ochiltree, opposite to the old house of Auchinleck, which formerly was the seat of the proprietor of the Ochiltree estate. And there is an old square tower, in the south part of the parish, named Auchencloigh.

village is in a flourishing condition. The salary, however, is only L. 8 Sterling. There is also a private school, or two.

*Poor.*—There are a great number of poor in the parish. About 20 receive regular monthly supplies. The only funds are the weekly collections, which amount, on an average, to about 12 s. *per* week, besides the extraordinary collections on sacramental occasions, which, for some years past, have been about L. 9 Sterling *per annum*. These collections are chiefly, if not solely, contributed by the commonalty, there being but one small heritor residing in the parish.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, according to a list taken this year (1792), amounts to 1150. The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1210 souls. The average of births for 5 years preceding 1792 is about 37. The average of marriages and burials cannot be ascertained, on account of the inaccuracy of the parochial registers. There are about 220 families in the parish, and 67 of these in the village. There are about five to a family, taking country and village together, but taking them separately, there are six in the former and four in the latter; a circumstance which strongly proves the superior healthiness of a country life. There are 30 more females than males.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are about 9 families of Seceders, some of the Burgher, and some of the Anti-burgher persuasion. All the rest attend the parish church, and are regular in their attendance on ordinances. The inhabitants in general are remarkable for the simplicity, integrity, and purity of their manners. Except a few shopkeepers, masons, joiners, and weavers, chiefly in the village, they are all farmers, who are not much in the world,

and for the most part dwell in solitary houses, at some distance from each other. The children of the farmers are pretty numerous, four neighbouring farmers having two of them 8, and two of them 9 children a-piece. The patron on the two last vacancies which happened, gave the people a pastor agreeable to their wishes; and what are called the *New Light Doctrines*, contrary to our Confession of faith, though prevalent in other parts of Ayrshire, have obtained very little countenance in Ochiltree.

N U M.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF SPOTT,

(COUNTY OF EAST LoTHIAN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MARTIN.*

---

*Situation and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish forms a part of the presbytery of Dunbar, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It was anciently a prebendary of the College church of Dunbar, near which town it is situated. There are three districts in it, 1st, the Lowland district, from Spott to Dunbar; 2dly, the Lammermuir Edges, from Spott to the Muir, the grounds gradually rising to a great height, about 700 feet above the sea; 3dly, the Muirland Farms, intersected by a large common, called Dunbar Common, said to be the property of the town, the parish, or the presbytery of Dunbar, but which is pastured on by the sheep belonging to the contiguous farmers.

*Agriculture.*—In this parish, agriculture is much in the same situation as in other parts of East Lothian. In the lower parts of the parish, wheat and beans, or clover repeated, are not uncommon; in the higher farms, turnips, oats,

oats, grafs, &c. The muirland farms are chiefly for sheep, which are thought of a very good kind, and the farmers here are particularly attentive to this article, fo important as a national concern. The quantity of sheep, horses, cattle, &c. is very variable, many having different farms in this and other parishes, on which they do not reside, and their mode of stocking of course frequently changing.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The stipend was augmented in 1759 to L. 1000 Scotch. The victual stipend being at the ordinary conversion, the heritors willingly consented to the augmentation, provided the minister restricted himself to that sum. Mr Hay of Spott is patron, and titular of the teinds. The church and manse were repaired in 1790. The parish schoolmaster has L. 100 Scotch, and the other usual emoluments. The average number of scholars is about 40. The number of poor on the roll amounts to 13. They are maintained by the interest of L. 200 Sterling, and 400 merks Scotch, mortgaged by Lord Alexander Hay of Spott, along with the weekly collections.

*Population.*—The following list of births, marriages, and deaths, for different periods, is extracted from the records of session :

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
From 1684 to 1694,		53	110
— 1705 to 1715,	444	108	182
— 1730 to 1740,		85	209
— 1771 to 1791,	220	196	235 †.

S T A-

\* The reason of this great number of baptisms, was that Mr Wood, then non-jurant minister at Dunbar, baptised many children at Spott.—The number at present would be greater, but few of the Seceders register their baptisms.

† Of this number, there may be about one half from other parishes.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of SPOTT.

Length in English miles,	10	Proprietors residing*,	2
Breadth, - - -	5	non-resi-	
Population, anno 1775,	727	ding †,	4
— anno 1791,	619	Clergymen,	2
Decrease, - - -	108	Schoolmasters,	1
Annual average of Births, for		Farmers, anno 1730,	21
20 years preceding 1791,	11	Ditto, anno 1791,	7
— of Deaths,	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	Innkeepers,	1
— of Marriages,	4 $\frac{4}{5}$	Smiths,	3
Inhabitants in the village,	175	Carpenters,	4
— in the country,	444	Weavers,	4
Number of Males,	287	Houses inhabited,	150
— Females,	332	Poor,	13
— Seceders, (commu-		Valued rent, in Scotch money ‡,	
nicants,) - - -	40	L. 4355	3 3

*Parochial Records.*—The records of the session are still extant, as far back as the 2d November 1662. The following particulars are extracted from them, with a view of explaining the general nature of these records, and as they tend to throw some light on the ancient state of the country.

Anno 1685. “By order of Council, the minister interrogated the elders, If, within their bounds, they knew of any disorderly baptisms or marriages, or any person guilty of frequenting house or field conventicles, or resetting of fugitives, since the last act of indemnity. *Answer.*—None.  
“ Aug.

\* Viz. Robert Hay, Esq; of Spott, and the Rev. Robert Cunningham of Balgownie.

† Viz. The D. of Roxburgh, E. of Hadinton, Countess of Hyndford, and Mrs Hamilton of Belhaven.

‡ The real rent has been tripled within these 30 years.

“ Aug. 1685. The kirk roof repaired by the session out  
 “ of their own funds, the heritors being all in the West;  
 “ attending the *King's host*.

“ Aug. 9. 1685. Thanksgiving day for victory over the  
 rebels in the West, headed by Argyle.

“ Dec. 1688. Mr Buchan the minister taken out of his  
 “ bed by three fanatics, with swords and guns; led down  
 “ to the church half naked; in his presence took away  
 “ with them the church bible and keys; discharged him to  
 “ officiate any longer in that parish as minister on his peril.

“ 1689. The minister complains to the session, of the  
 “ collections for the poor failing, by reason of the people's  
 “ dishaunting the church. The session appointed him to  
 “ represent the same to the presbytery.

“ 1693. The united presbyteries of Haddington and  
 “ Dunbar, meet at Spott, and ordain Mr Brown minister,  
 “ by virtue of a call given him by said parish.

“ Nov. 1693. By act of Council, a thanksgiving for the  
 “ preservation and safe return of the King from the dangers  
 “ of the war, into his own kingdoms.

“ *Ditto*. The session considering, that some persons,  
 “ without necessity, stay from church, and go to change  
 “ houses, or walk through the fields,—appoint one of their  
 “ number to go through the town, every Sabbath after this,  
 “ to see that no persons absent themselves from public wor-  
 “ ship.

“ 1695. A general fast for the Queen's death.

“ 1698. The session, after a long examination of wit-  
 “ nesses, refer the case of Marion Lillie, for imprecations  
 “ and supposed witchcraft, to the presbytery, who refer  
 “ her for trial to the civil magistrate.—Said Marion, gene-  
 “ rally called the *Rigwoody Witch*.

“ Oct. 1705. Many witches burnt on the top of Spott  
 “ loan.—The presbytery meet at Spott, as a committee of  
 “ censure

“ censure on the minister, elders, heritors, schoolmaster,  
 “ precentor, beadle, and heads of families. According to  
 “ usual form, they were all severally remov’d, try’d, and  
 “ approved. The minister particularly interrogated, con-  
 “ cerning the church, pulpit, bell, church utensils, manse,  
 “ offices, stipend, schoolmaster’s salary.—Every thing ne-  
 “ cessary immediately ordered by the heritors—Lord A-  
 “ lexander Hay, son of the Marquis of Tweeddale, being  
 “ for the first time present, as proprietor of Spott.”

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Spott house, romantically si-  
 tuated on a rock, in a dean, den, or glen, about a mile long,  
 though appearing in a very low site, has a prospect of the  
 German ocean, Dunbar, the Bass, Isle of May, and the  
 neighbouring very rich coast of East Lothian. On each  
 side of the house there are rivulets, falling in beautiful cas-  
 cades, over rocks, into very deep pools. The banks in many  
 places are almost perpendicular, covered with very tall  
 old plane, ash, elm, and beech trees, many of whose trunks  
 and branches are twined about with ivy. There is no space  
 between the banks, but what the burn occupies, which  
 runs into Spott water, or Brock’s-burn, and enters the  
 German ocean at Broxmouth, a feat of the Duke of Rox-  
 burgh near Dunbar. On the banks of all the burns there  
 are excellent springs. St John’s well, in the neighbour-  
 hood of the village of Spott is the most remarkable; it is  
 carried in pipes 2 miles to Dunbar, for the supply of wa-  
 ter to the inhabitants. Kisthill well, near Bothwell, (a feat  
 of the Earl B.) was formerly resorted to for scorbutic com-  
 plaints. Spartleton-hill is one of the highest in Lammermuir.  
 Downhill, about 500 feet above the sea, is remarkable for  
 being the place on which General Leslie had his camp, be-  
 fore (what is sometimes called) the *Battle of Dunbar*, but in  
 general over this country, the *Battle of Downhill*, fought  
 on



on the east side and neighbourhood of the hill, between Oliver Cromwell, and the Scotch army under Leslie's command. From this strong entrenchment Leslie was persuaded, contrary to his own opinion, to come down,—was defeated by Cromwell, who was just about to embark his troops at Dunbar for want of provisions, and pursued with great slaughter. Musket bullets, swords, human bones, and pieces of scarlet cloth, are still found in the neighbouring fields; many of the killed were buried in and about Spott-dean. The Edges of Lammermuir are beautifully skirted with natural wood, the property of Mrs Hamilton of Belhaven, consisting chiefly of oak and hazel. There is a range of 4 beautiful small lochs in her property; in one of which, called the *Black Loch*, are excellent pike.—The farm of Spott, formerly let to three, is now in lease to one farmer. New houses are intended to be built by Mr Hay of Spot, in place of old ones now in ruins, and others are to be repaired.

N U M B E R XXXIV.

P A R I S H O F B R E C H I N,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

*Drawn up from Materials communicated by the Rev.  
Mr ANDREW BRUCE,  
One of the Ministers of that Parish.*

---

*Origin of the Name.*

**T**HE ancient and modern name of this parish is Brechin. Some imagine it to be derived from the Gaelic word *braechin*, which signifies fern ; but this seems not very probable, as that plant is by no means abundant in the parish. Others, with more probability, trace its origin from the Scotch word *brae*, which signifies, the declivity of a hill, and is indeed very descriptive of the local situation of the town of Brechin, whence the name of the parish is derived.

*Situation, Extent, Surface, Climate and Diseases.*—This parish is situated in the presbytery of Brechin, and

belongs to the Synod of Angus and Mearns. The town is the ordinary seat of the presbytery, and lies about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  English miles N. W. from Montrose. The parish extends about 5 Scotch, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  English miles, from E. to W. in length, and towards the west side, is nearly as broad from N. to S. It rises gradually on the north side of the river South Esk, and to a much greater height on the south side. To the west of the bridge on the south side, there is a large plantation of pines, birch and hard wood, which decorates the north brow of the hill, fronting the town of Brechin, and is a great ornament to the country in general. There is another in the moor of Dubtown, about an English mile west from Brechin, but it lies low.—The climate is dry, and in general healthy, except in warm and calm weather, when fogs arise from the river. The most prevailing diseases are fevers, consumptions, and the king's evil.

*Soil, River, Fish and Minerals.*—The greater part of the soil is rich and fertile, especially on the north side of the river, and contiguous to it on the west. The river South Esk runs through the middle of the parish, all the way from the bridge. It produces excellent trouts, and in the spring, when the river is swelled, some salmon. The high grounds on both sides of the river, are rocky, but not extensive, except where there is wood, and where the high roads run.—There is a deal of freestone on both sides of the South Esk, especially on the south side, to the eastward of the bridge.

*Animals.*—There are no uncommon animals in the parish. There are a considerable number of horses and black cattle, but few sheep, the ground being mostly laid out in grain. Cuckoos, lapwings, swallows, and other birds of passage, visit the parish in their seasons.

*Population.*

*Population.*—The population of the town of Brechin is supposed to be doubled within these 100 years; and, in consequence of the establishment of several manufactures, within the last 25 years, it has increased a full third.

The return to Dr Webster in 1755, of the number in the whole parish, was,	-	-	-	-	3131
The number of souls at present (1790-1) cannot be estimated under	-	-	-	-	5000
				Increase,	1819

Of these, there are, in the west side of the town, (the junior minister's charge), examinable persons, above 7 years of age, attending the Established Church,	-	-	-	-	1030
Examinable persons contiguous to the town, but not within the					
royalty,	-	-	-	-	14
_____ in the country, about	-	-	-	-	697
Episcopals in the town,	-	-	-	-	118
_____ in the country,	-	-	-	-	12
Seceders in the town,	-	-	-	-	61
_____ in the country,	-	-	-	-	6
					1956

There may be nearly about as many in the senior minister's (Mr BISSET's) charge: So that estimating the number of children under 7 years of age, at the usual proportion, there cannot be fewer than 5000 souls in the parish.

The following extract from the parish register, for 6 years preceding 1790, will give some idea of the proportion of the marriages, births and deaths in the parish.

*Years.*

Years.	Baptisms.	Burials.	Marriages.		
			Both parties parishioners.	One only.	Total.
1784	95	114	26	16	42
1785	115	89	23	13	36
1786	97	121	22	25	47
1787	105	88	32	17	49
1788	129	110	24	14	38
1789	121	104	39	12	51
	662	626	166	97	263
	626				

Majority, \* 36, of Baptisms more than Burials.

There are 3 surgeons, 1 of whom is also a physician, and 3 writers in the town of Brechin, besides a number of merchants, shopkeepers, weavers, bakers, smiths, wrights, and the other necessary tradesmen and mechanics.

*Church, Burgh, Fuel, &c.*—The church is collegiate. The King is patron. There are 5 clergymen, 3 of them Dissenters. The livings are widely different in value. In the time of Episcopacy, the Bishop filled the first charge.—Brechin is a royal burgh, and one of five that sends a representative to Parliament. The election is vested in the town-council. It has a weekly market every Tuesday.—The fuel used is coals, wood and furze. Peats are also brought down from the Mearns. The coals cost 8 s. *per* boll at Montrose, sometimes more, besides the additional charges of carriage, &c. The duty on this necessary article, after passing the Redhead, has been long and justly complained of, as an unequal and partial tax, which

\* This majority would be considerably greater, if all the births in the parish were registered; but the children of Dissenters are not entered in the records, and even of those who attend the Established Church, some neglect to register their children's names.

which is severely felt by the poor ; but although a redress of this grievance has been often talked of, nothing has as yet been done in the business.

*Bridge, Antiquities, &c.*—The bridge of Brechin is supposed to be one of the most ancient stone bridges in Scotland, but there is no tradition when, or by whom, it was built.—The monument in the church-yard is one of the most remarkable pieces of antiquity, perhaps in Britain. It is a circular pillar, hollow within, close by the steeple of the church, and considerably higher ; and, as tradition says, was built by the Picts. It is undoubtedly a piece of very ancient architecture. The stair-case within it is much decayed, and is now hardly passable, though, within these few years, one could have ascended to the top of it without danger. The pillar is seen at a considerable distance from the E. and it is said to bend like a willow in high winds, so as almost to touch the steeple.

*Commerce and Manufactures.*—A considerable quantity of oats and bear is exported by Messrs Gillies and Company, and meal is sometimes imported. Most of the merchants deal in the linen and yarn trade, of which great quantities are bought and sold every market day. This trade gives employment to most of the women, in this and the adjoining parishes, who all spin on the two-handed wheel, and are well paid for their labour. There was also a cotton manufacture, which was lately given up, but is expected to be resumed soon ; and there is a bleachfield, which gives employment to a number of people of both sexes ; besides strong ale and porter breweries, which furnish the town and neighbourhood with excellent liquor. The spirited exertions of Mr Colin Gillies have been of great benefit to the population and commerce of Brechin.

*Character.*

*Character.*—The people, in general, are active and industrious, honest in their dealings, and by no means superstitious; but cannot be said to be altogether free from those vices, which generally accompany an influx of wealth from trade and manufactures. They are also occasionally infected with a spirit of litigation, and spend considerable sums at the law, often about mere trifles.—In public spirit, they are inferior to none. They are, in general, of the ordinary stature, from 5 feet, to 5 feet 9 or 10 inches; some near 6 feet, and there is one man several inches above it.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The low grounds on both sides of the river are occasionally overflowed by great inundations. The last memorable flood happened in the year 1774, when the whole bleachfield to the S. E. of the castle \* was overflowed, and the people possessing the tenements, which lie along the E. side of the river, were obliged to go up to the highest apartments of their houses, the under stories being quite overflowed. There is an echo at the castle, and another at the cathedral.—There are neither Jews, Negroes, nor Roman Catholics in the parish, but some of those sturdy beggars, called gypsies, occasionally visit it. No person has been known to die for want. Indeed, there is work enough for all who are able and willing to work, and those who are not able, are provided for.—There have, therefore, been few or no instances of emigration; only a few left the parish, upon the failing of the cotton manufactory.—None have been banished for a considerable time past. There are very few  
uninhabited

\* The old mansion house on the side of the river, belonging to Lord Panmure, who resides in it, is commonly called the *Castle* of Brechin. It is pleasantly situated in the midst of a fine plantation of trees.

uninhabited houses.—The language usually spoken is the common Scotch dialect, but most of the names of places are derived from the Gaelic.—An event often related by tradition, but now almost forgot, which occurred in the reign of the unfortunate Queen Mary, deserves to be recorded. On the 5th of July 1572, Sir Adam Gordon of Auchindown, who was of the Queen's party, and was besieging the castle of Glenbervie, hearing that a party of the King's friends were in Brechin, came upon them by surprise in the morning, and cut off the whole party.—Another battle was fought in this neighbourhood, between the Earls of Crawford and Huntly, on the 18th May 1452, when the former was defeated, and the latter did King James II. very essential service. This battle is called *The Battle of Brechin*, though the spot, on which it was fought, is not in the parish, but a little to the N. E. of it, on the road leading to the North Water Bridge.



## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF INVERCHAOLAIN,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr HUGH MACTAVISH, Minister.**Name, Situation and Extent.*

**I**NVERCHAOLAIN is derived from the Gaelic language, *inver*, signifying fit for crop, or *inner*, (as it is sometimes spelt), fit for tillage, and *caolain*, or *caolambain*, a small water or rivulet. This etymology of Inverchaolain is very descriptive of the place, being a plain at the foot of a rivulet, fit for tillage or cultivation. It is situated in the district of Cowal\*, and shire of Argyll. It is intersected by an arm of the sea, called Lochstreven, which runs about 8 miles

\* It has been humorously observed, since flocks of *sheep* have expelled the droves of *cows*, which formerly were kept in this part of the country, that the district should be called *Sheep-all*, instead of *Cow-all*; but the word Cowal is derived from the Gaelic, and not from the English.

miles into the country, the two sides of which, with the channel that divides the island of Bute from this part of Cowal, present a sea-coast in this parish of above 3 miles.

*Lake, Fish, Surface and Soil.*—Lochstreven abounds with fish, viz. haddocks, whittings, small cod, flounders, feath, and falmon; and in some seasons there have been remarkable captures of herrings. In the years 1789 and 1790, the herrings caught in Lochstreven, might be valued at L. 3000 Sterling. The surface of this parish is for the most part rugged; a ridge of mountains rises with a steep ascent all along from the coast. In some places, there are small flat fields nigh the shore, but for the most part the ascent from the sea is immediate; and about half a mile above its level, the soil is thin and sandy, more calculated for grazing than tillage. All the mountains, some years ago, were covered with heath, but many of them now, by being pastured with sheep, are mostly green, and it is likely, (from the rapid change that has already taken place, in the appearance and value of these mountains, in this and the neighbouring parishes), that the heath will soon be entirely extirpated, and the value of the ground by that means considerably increased.—It may be proper here to add, that the extirpation of heath, and the production of grass in its room, very much depends on a proper system of burning the heath, which should always be done in the month of March or April; and if the ground burnt, is kept free from cattle, for 18 months afterwards, the improvement is very great indeed. many new grasses springing up, from the enriching quality of the ashes of the heath, which were never known before. But, if the land is too soon pastured on, the grasses are weak and tender, and the sheep or cattle pull them up root and all, by which the pasture is very materially injured.

*Agriculture, Sheep-grazing, &c.*—Though the lands in this parish are better calculated for pasture than tillage, yet the few fields along the sea coast, might be turned to much better account. The people, however, are so prejudiced in favour of the ancient mode of farming, that they can hardly be persuaded to adopt any other; so that the same bad husbandry, that prevailed in this country 40 years ago, still obtains. Instead of a rotation of crops, suited to the soil, they have, for the most part, a succession of the same crop for two or three years. The crops, principally raised, are oats, bear and potatoes. After the first break they generally sow bear, then two crops of oats successively. Sea weed is used as manure for oats, and, where the land has rested for two or three years, produces good crops. The ground is manured for bear and potatoes, with the dung of their black cattle, housed in winter; and though there is limestone in the parish, the oppressive duty upon coals, and the distance of every other fuel, make the expence of burning lime so enormous, that the people cannot afford to lay it on their land.—The only person in this parish, who has paid particular attention to farming, is James Lamont, Esq; of Knockdow, a gentleman of considerable landed property; who, under many disadvantages of climate and soil, raises green crops, equal to any in the west of Scotland. He manures his ground strongly, sometimes with lime, and at other times with a mixture of lime and earth, as it suits his land. His returns of bear are from 8 to 10 bolls an acre; and of oats from 6 to 8. He has practised, with success, what was never known before in this country, however frequent in the southern parts of Scotland,—the plan of feeding sheep on turnips in the fields. In this manner, the sheep are fattened with little trouble, the land manured, and the necessity of summer fallow precluded.—The farmers, in his immediate neighbourhood,

bourhood, are so sensible of his superior mode of cultivation, that they have, (with great advantage to themselves), adopted it on a small scale; and it is hoped, in due time, his example will have more general influence over all this country.—There are 40 ploughs in the parish. Some plow with 2, some with 3, and some with 4 horses. The average produce of oats, on ground cultivated on the old plan, is from 3 to 4 bolls *per* acre; of bear from 4 to 5.—The prices of all our productions, are regulated by the Greenock market. The produce in grain being short of the consumption, an annual importation, of about 400 bolls of oat-meal, is necessary. Some poultry, butter and cheese are exported.

*Sheep*.—Our mountains, which were of old pastured with black cattle and horses, are now covered with sheep, which has not only made a pleasant change on the surface, but has also encreased the rents considerably, and enables the graziers to live better, and make money. There may be about 14,000 sheep in the parish; the Crawford muir black-faced sheep, are the kind that are thought to suit best; but many of the graziers here, are liberal minded gentlemen, fond of making experiments, and of improving their breed of sheep. Some of the Cheviot, or long-faced white sheep, have lately been brought to this parish. Some of them are pastured in our mountains, and others on our low ground. Those on the mountains seem to thrive equally well with those in the low lands, which is a proof of their hardiness and fitness for the climate. The prices of sheep and wool have encreased of late; three-year-old widders are sold at from 10 s. to 14 s.; ewes, (commonly called old or draught ewes), from 6 s. to 8 s.; lambs, from 3 s. to 5 s.; wool laid with tar, from 5 s. to 6 s. a stone, (Trone weight, 24 English ounces to  
the

the pound); white, from 7 s. to 8 s. The Society for extending Fisheries and Improvements, have been the means of improving the sheep of this country considerably, by the premiums, which they have been in the use of giving, of L. 14 Sterling, to the person who grazed the three best parcels of tups, 6 to each parcel.—This has raised an emulation among the graziers; and as the flock of the person, who gets the premiums, is esteemed the best, he consequently obtains a higher price for his sheep, in addition to his premium. The judges, appointed to determine the qualities of the tups, presented for a competition, are at a loss, whether to give it in favour of those whose wool is of the best quality, or in favour of the strongest and best made rams, not knowing which of these points the Society have principally in view; but they generally determine, in favour of those of the greatest strength and beauty, in preference to those who have a greater quantity of wool, or of superiority in quality, but an inferior shape or carcase. Besides the *braxy*, (a disease common to sheep of the first year, or hogs, as they are commonly called), by which nearly a fourth are cut off, there is another disease fatal to sheep of all ages, during the summer months, called the *sturdy*, or dizziness in the head. The symptoms of this disease are watery tumours in the fore or back part of the head; and the only cure, that has been tried, is cutting away these tumours, by which sometimes the animal's life is preserved; though many die immediately after the operation is performed. The cause of this disease has never been ascertained, nor any preventative discovered.

*Black Cattle and Horses.*—The rage for sheep stocks has banished the practice of rearing many black cattle; though some judicious farmers think, a few on the hills, in summer, along with the sheep, would pasture on those grasses  
which

which the sheep do not like, and which are otherwise entirely lost. There may be about 400 cattle in the parish, and 140 horses. Aged black cattle are sold at from L. 4 to L. 5 Sterling; horses, from L. 10 to L. 12.

*Antiquities.*—At the S. E. extremity of this parish, upon a farm called *Ardein*, there stands an artificial hill, on which the ancient judges of the country held their courts, and administered justice. On a dry heath, near the shore of the same farm, and also at Achavuillin in that neighbourhood, there are many vestiges of graves, some marked by cairns of stones, others by a single stone at each grave. A few of them were opened, and found to contain human bones.—It is probable, that all these, either buried under the cairns, or whose graves are marked, by the more simple monument of a single stone at each grave, were men either of rank and figure, or who had distinguished themselves by their warlike exploits; and that these monuments were meant to point out, that the bodies of people of eminence were deposited under them.—About the year 1226, Olave, King of the Isles, invaded Bute, and having besieged the castle of Rothefay, he took it, with the loss of nearly 300 of his men. Four of his ships were driven from their anchors by a storm, and all the people on board perished. It is supposed, that the graves along the *Ardein* and *Achavuillin* coast, (being opposite to the bay of Rothefay), are the dormitories of those dead bodies, who were driven upon that shore, after the loss of their ships. By tradition we are told, that *Ardein* was the scene of a very bloody conflict, which took place between the people of that neighbourhood, and a party of young courtiers, who attended the palace of Robert III. at Rothefay. The gallant courtiers, coming on a hunting excursion to this part of the country, were so enamoured with the charms of the young women they met with, that they  
wished

wished to become rather too familiar with them. This roused the resentment of their lovers, who, assembling all the males of the district, drove these intruders to the shore; where, an engagement taking place, many of them atoned for their gallantry with their blood\*.

*Climate and Diseases.*—Being surrounded with hills, whose tops intercept the clouds, we have great and frequent falls of rain. This, and not sowing our oats, before the middle of April, make the harvest late, and our crops are, consequently, much hurt by the equinoctial rains and winds. Though the air is rather moist, there are many instances of longevity; there are two men now living, in the parish, above 90 years of age. A man died lately that was said to be 100, and there are several between 70 and 80. The people are, in general, healthy, living mostly near the sea; those farthest from it, not being above three miles distant.

The

\* At the mouth of Lochridden, there is a small island called *Eallangheirrig* the property of Mr Campbell of South-Hall, (who is the principal landholder in this parish), memorable in the annals of last century. In the year 1685, the unfortunate Archibald Earl of Argyll, having, in concert with the Duke of Monmouth, attempted an invasion of the kingdom, brought with him three frigates, and a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition. He landed at Dunstaffnage, on the N. W. coast of Argyllshire; and having collected an army of about 3000 men, he ordered his ships from Dunstaffnage to Eallangheirrig, which he caused fortify in the best manner he could; there he deposited his spare arms and ammunition, under protection of his ships, and a garrison of 180 men. But soon after, three ships of war and some frigates arrived in the frith of Clyde, and proceeded towards Eallangheirrig, to whom the Earl's frigates and garrison immediately surrendered. In the castle of Eallangheirrig were found 5000 stand of arms, 500 barrels of gunpowder, several cannon, and other implements of war. The captains of the frigates, after removing these stores, blew up the castle, which put an end to any farther hostile operations, on the part of that unfortunate nobleman, who, with his party, found means to escape; but he was soon afterwards taken, and met with a fate he little merited from his country.

The only epidemical diseases, by which we are infested, are fevers, (which cut off many); the small pox, in the natural way, and the measles, which prove fatal to numbers of children.—Inoculation for the small pox, though not universal, is becoming more general among the lower classes of people. The few, that die of inoculation, in comparison with those by the natural infection, has, in some measure, reconciled them to a practice, which they long held in abhorrence.

*Church, Poor and School.*—The Earl of Bute is patron. The stipend is mostly paid in victual, and may amount, including the glebe, (*communibus annis*), to L. 110 Sterling, yearly. The inhabitants are of the Established Church, excepting two Seceders. The manse was built in the year 1736, with offices of stone and lime, and slated in the 1791; and the church in the year 1745. The manse is in very good repair, and the church is in as good order, as most country churches.—The poor are supported by the collections at the church upon Sundays; the interest of a fund saved out of former collections; the dues of marriages and christenings, and fines exacted from delinquents. There is an established schoolmaster, with a salary of L. 7 Sterling, besides a small allowance, as precentor and session-clerk.—He professes teaching of English, Arithmetic, and Book-keeping. The number, who attend him, are about 12 in summer, and 20 in winter. In the summer months, many of them are employed in herding, as some of their parents cannot afford to hire people; besides, if their children can read English, write, and understand a little of arithmetic, they think them sufficiently well educated.

*Farmer Society.*—A society has been lately established in this, and the neighbouring parish of Dunoon, called the  
*Farmer*



*Farmer Society*, which, it is hoped, will in time supersede the necessity of making any provision for the poor. Every member, at his admission, has the option either to pay L. 1, 1 s. Sterling, and be exempted from any future payment, or 6 s. at entry, and 1 s. yearly. This money is lent upon proper security; and when it amounts to L. 100 Sterling, the interest is to be applied to the relief of the indigent, and the widows and children of the members; and, if there are none of this description, to any other necessitous persons in the parishes in which the members reside. The office bearers and managers are appointed yearly, to take charge of the business. This society is only as yet in its infancy, but many of the gentlemen of the country, sensible of its being founded upon good principles, have joined them; and, it is hoped, it will soon be put upon such a footing, as to afford an ample provision for the poor, and preclude the necessity of poor's rates, which have been much and justly complained of, as prejudicial to industry and virtue.

*Population.*—The return made to Dr Webster of the population of this parish, in the year 1755, was 944 souls. From the register of baptisms, of that and later dates, there is evidently a considerable decrease. This has been owing to a practice, that has become general for some years past, of letting large tracts of ground, to one or two individuals for sheep-grazing, which were formerly occupied by 8 or 10 different tenants. The landholders found it their advantage to let their lands in this manner, as one or two people, who had money to stock the land with sheep, and understood how to manage them, could afford to pay a higher rent, than many of the former possessors, who neither understood grazing nor tillage, and could hardly, by their poor unskilled efforts, gain a miserable  
subsistence,

subsistence for themselves and families. Happily for them, they were mostly removed to the neighbouring towns, where they found sufficient employment, and where many of their children, by the advantages of education, (which they could not enjoy in their own country), have raised themselves to independence, become useful members of the community, and a support and comfort to their parents in their old age. The number of families, at present, is 83, of souls, 504. The annual average of marriages is 4, and of births, 12. There is no register of burials kept.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—Seven heritors have property in this parish, one of whom, (Mr Campbell of South-hall), has nearly the one half. Not influenced by the general taste for dissipation and extravagance, so prevalent among most young men of fortune, he passes the greatest part of his time upon his own estate, ornamenting his delightful place of residence, which commands a beautiful prospect of the Frith of Clyde, island of Bute, and village of Largs, with that much admired place belonging to Lord Glasgow, called *Kelburn*. He, and Mr Lamont of Knockdow, are the only residing heritors. The valued rent of the parish is L. 204 : 8 : 5 Sterling, and the real rent may be about L. 1500 Sterling.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Natural woods, such as oak, ash, hazle, birch, &c. are a considerable article of sale. They are cut down at 20 years old. The only planting is about Mr Campbell of South-hall's mansion house, and Mr Lamont of Knockdow's. There are grouse in the hills, and black cocks in the woods, a few partridges in the low grounds, and plenty of hares. The manners of the people, dress, prices of labour, and language, are the same with those of the neighbouring parishes, which have been already communicated to the public.

## NUMBER XXXVI.

## PARISH OF DUNBAR,

(COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE BRUCE.**Name, Situation, Surface and Prospect.*

THE parish takes its name from the town; and the name of the town, *Dunbar*, or *Barodunum* according to Buchanan, is probably derived from some eminent hero of antiquity of the name of Bar, whose place of residence it was.—It is situated in the county of Haddington, in the provincial Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, and is the seat of the presbytery of Dunbar. It is about 9 miles in length along the coast, from E. to W. and, at a medium, nearly 2 miles in breadth.—The face of the country is pleasant, rising gradually and moderately, for the most part, from a low coast. It forms a very agreeable landscape, the back ground of which, in every direction, exhibits a variety of striking objects. Eastward is St Ebb's Head, with a bold and high coast;—to the S. the rising hills on the skirts of Lammermuir, and the high grounds  
of

of Whittingham;—westward, are Dumbender Law, Garleton Hills, and North-Berwick Law; and on the N. the Bafs, the Ifle of May, the Frith of Forth, the coast of Fife, and the lofty mountains of Angus.

*Soil.*—The foil is rich, and the parish of Dunbar is perhaps the moft fertile spot in Eaft Lothian, which is the moft fruitful province in North Britain. It is partly a rich loam, partly clay, and partly a light mould. It is well cultivated, and produces great crops, chiefly wheat, barley and beans, but little oats, and lefs rye. Rich crops of broad clover and rye-grafs are raifed, and the land answers well for turnips and potatoes. Sea-ware is much ufed for manure, and with good fuccefs. Limestone is got in the E. end of the parish, and there are draw kilns for burning lime, which is ufed by the farmers, and fold to thofe in the neighbourhood. The fields are inclofed, fome with ftone walls, fome with thorn hedges; and fome of them are ftill open. The greater part of the land is dry, and the feafons are early.

*Rent, Proprietors, &c.*—The land is, in general, high rented. The burgh acres give from L. 4 Sterling to above five guineas the Englifh acre, and confiderable farms from 30 s. to two guineas. The land is divided among 7 great heritors, (of whom 3 refide in the parish,) and about the fame number of very fmall ones. There are 30 great farmers, who pay of rent from L. 60 to L. 600 Sterling. They are generally opulent and respectable. There are 7 or 8 fmall ones. There is one grazier, who deals to a confiderable extent, in breeding and feeding for the butcher market. A good many cattle are ftall-fed, and fheep are fattened with turnips. The valued rent of the parish is L. 16,953 Scotch, and the real rent about L. 8000 Sterling.

ling. The Duke of Roxburgh has a small house at Broxmouth, pleasantly situated. Sir Peter Warrander has Lochend. Nineware belongs to Mr Hamilton of Bangour, and Belton to Mr Hay. Mr Anderson has a small house beautifully situated at Winterfield, from the summer house of which there is a delightful prospect, very extensive, and much diversified. The Earl of Lauderdale has built a very elegant house at the W. end of Dunbar.

*Villages, Rivers, Mills, &c.*—There are five villages in the parish, *viz.* Belhaven, within the royalty, West Barns, Hedderwick, East Barns, and Pinkerton.—There are two rivers; both have their source in Lammermuir hills. The largest of these is the Tyne, which, after a pretty long course, empties itself into the Frith of Forth at Tynninghame. There the tide flows about two miles, and has destroyed on both sides of the river several acres of good land, which Dutch skill and industry would have preserved. The other river is the Biel, which runs by Whittinghame, the Bield, Belton, and West Barns, and empties itself into the Frith at Bielmouth. On this river, at the village of West Barns, a cotton and flax mill is just now begun to be erected, from which we have great expectations. The cotton manufacture is at present one of the most flourishing and useful branches of commerce in Britain. It employs a number of hands, and especially young people. This mill is a new thing in this county, and, if it succeeds, will be a great blessing to this corner. It is generally esteemed a patriotic attempt, and has the good wishes of every person of public spirit.—At West Barns, there are flour mills of the best sort, where a considerable quantity of wheat and barley is manufactured. There are three other corn mills in the parish. To these mills, the town and some estates in the country are thirled; a wretched piece of police!

Thirlage

Thirlage to a mill, and all kinds of feudal servitude to the landlord, are extremely inconvenient to the farmer, and hostile to all improvements. Indeed, these Gothic customs are justly falling into disuse among the sensible part of the gentlemen in Scotland.

*Population.*—By an accurate survey, in the present year, (1792), it appears, that there are 3700 inhabitants in the parish, of all ages. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, amounting only to 3281, there is consequently an increase of 419 souls. The following is an abstract from the session register, of births, marriages, and burials for the last 10 years :

	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
1782	68	29	58
1783	77	32	39
1784	97	26	42
1785	98	22	43
1786	68	19	43
1787	81	21	42
1788	79	24	32
1789	80	21	32
1790	80	23	64
1791	79	27	54

This account is pretty accurate, in respect of marriages and burials, but is considerably deficient in regard to births, as many neglect to get the names of their children entered in the public register. If any regulation could be made to supply this defect, and to enable the session-clerk to keep the parish register exact, and to oblige him to give in annually to some public office, a true list, signed also by the minister, of all the births, marriages, and burials, which have happened in the parish for that year; it would ascertain the population of every particular parish, as well as of Scotland in general; and might answer many valuable national purposes.

*Burgh.*

*Burgh.*—Dunbar is a royal burgh, erected by a charter from King David II. about the middle of the 14th century. It is centrally situated between Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed, being 27 miles distant from each. It stands on a moderate eminence, and a dry bottom. The principal street is broad and well aired, and the houses are much improved of late, and make a very genteel appearance. There are in the town, two large inns for the accommodation of travellers. At some distance, among the rocks, there is a retired place for sea-bathing, with a room to undress. The town is remarkably healthy, as is the parish in general. There are many instances of longevity, of persons who have arrived to the age of 80 or 90 years, and upwards. It is exposed to cold and sharp winds, from the east and north, chiefly in spring. The town of Dunbar is supplied with plenty of good soft water, conveyed in leaden pipes from the distance of above two miles. This was done in 1766, at a considerable expence; and the merit of this great benefit is due to the public spirit of the magistrates, who were then in office, and in which they were assisted by the liberal contributions of the inhabitants. On that occasion the streets were new paved. In 1758, a piece of ground was allotted for a washing green, and inclosed with a hedge, and a drying house erected on it.—The government of Dunbar is by a Provost, three Bailies, a Treasurer, and 15 Councillors. The revenue, amounts to about L. 500 Sterling a-year. Dunbar, with Haddington, North Berwick, Jedburgh, and Lauder, send one member to Parliament. The usual unhappy effects of borough-jobbing at elections, are, intemperance, political enmity, and neglect of business. Though Dunbar has not been quite exempted from these evils, it has suffered as little, in this respect, perhaps,

haps, as any royal burgh in Scotland. If our members for burghs would exert themselves to advance, not only the public good of the nation, but also some material concern of the towns, which they represent, they would found an interest on real merit, which would be more solid, as well as more honourable, than that which is founded on election dinners, expensive entertainments, and drunkenness. These serve only to debauch the morals of the inhabitants, and to hurt the families of those very persons, whose friendship they wish to secure. There are in Dunbar, no fewer than 46 licensed alehouses, where low-priced spirits are retailed, and, where the execrable custom of dram-drinking is practised. This we may justly pronounce to be the bane of all good, and the source of all ill; the ruin of health and morals, and of all domestic duty and comfort; the reproach of man, and the disgrace of woman.

*Harbour and Shipping.*—The harbour was originally at Belhaven. The east pier of the present harbour was begun in the time of *Cromwell's* protectorship, to the expence of which *Oliver* granted L. 300, as appears by a letter of General Monk from Dalkeith. For a long time after that period, the harbour continued very imperfect, capable of containing only a few small vessels. Early in the present century, it was enlarged and deepened, by digging into the solid rock, 8 feet deep at an average; and at the same time very commodious quays were built. This was a work of incredible labour and expence, and reflects no small honour on those who had the management of public affairs at that time. In reality it was the most capital improvement of the place, and the very *making* of the town and its trade. The harbour, though very safe, is still but small, and of difficult access. There was lately a new pier



pier built on the rock, that forms the west side of the entry, to the expence of which the Convention of Royal Burghs gave L.600 Sterling. The harbour is defended by a battery mounting twelve guns, 9, 12, and 18 pounders. Very lately a large and convenient dry dock was built.

The following is a list of the shipping, belonging to Dunbar, with the tonnage, and number of failors :

Ships.	Tons.	Men.
8	408	33—employed in the coasting trade,
8	1097	67—in foreign trade,
2	675	50—in the whale-fishing trade.
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
18	2180	150

*Fisheries.*—There are 12 fishing boats for white fish and lobsters, which employ about 40 men. There is a custom-house, in which there are a collector and comptroller, a land surveyor, a tide surveyor, 4 tide-waiters, and a custom-house boat, with 7 men belonging to it.—The ships belonging to the East Lothian and Merse fishing Company, are stationed at Dunbar. They were once 5 in number, but are now reduced to 2. This Company was established in 1752, and has continued with various success. It is the oldest of the kind in Britain, and, upon the whole, has been the most successful.—The herring fishery was formerly more considerable and regular. It is of great benefit to the town, and to all the country round; but, for several years past, it has become very precarious and uncertain.

*Trade and Manufactures.*—The corn trade is the most considerable branch. It is sold, chiefly by samples, in the weekly market, which is held every Thursday.

Subjoined

Subjoined is a list of grain, &c. exported in the year 1791, and shipped at Dunbar :

	Quarters.	Brought over	Quarters.
			8316 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wheat, -	2568 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oat-meal, -	862
Flour, - -	515 $\frac{1}{2}$	Barley-meal,	71
Barley, -	1814	Beans, -	940
Malt, -	2999 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pease, -	162
Oats, -	419		
	<hr/>	Total	<hr/> 10,351 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carry over	8316 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Split pease and beans, 23 tons ; hulled barley 118 tons. About 8000 bolls of barley are malted yearly. Dunbar malt is famous for its quality, being remarkably well made. Above 6000 tons of coals, are landed annually at Dunbar. The price of coals is between 5 s. 6 d. and 6 s. 6 d. *per* boll, which weighs 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt.—There is a very fine ropery at Dunbar, where there are employed from 20 to 30 men ; and another new one at West Barns. The cordage manufactured is above 100 tons annually.—Kelp, in a small quantity, is made on the coast.—Soap and starch are manufactured in the town and neighbourhood.

*Church.*—The fabric of the church is very old, and the form of it is very bad for an auditory. It is built exactly in the form of a cross. The body of it is 100 feet long, and it is only 24 feet wide within the walls. It was founded *anno* 1392, by George Earl of March, for a Dean, an Archpriest, and 8 Prebendaries. These were named from their several respective prebends, or benefices ; *viz.* Dunbar, Pinkerton, Belton, Spot, Pitcox, Linton, Dunfe, and Chirnside. The patronage fell to the Crown, by the forfeiture of the Earl of March. The Duke of Roxburgh is

the present patron, and is titular of the tithes, which are very considerable in this parish.—The church, till lately, was, in the inside especially, one of the worst, and most inconvenient, perhaps in Scotland. The floor was sunk below the ground without, which made it always damp and cold. It was repaired by the heritors in 1779, floored with deal, and ceiled in the roof. A part of the long body was cut off, by a partition, as useless, and it was regularly seated; so that it now looks clean and neat, the quire only remaining unaltered.—There were two monasteries in the parish, both founded by Patrick Earl of March: One of *Red Friars*, in 1218, the other of *White Friars*, in 1263.—The living at present consists of 23 bolls wheat, 65 bolls barley, 23 bolls oats, and 7 bolls pease, with L. 34 Sterling. A decret of mere locality, without any augmentation, was obtained in absence of the minister in the year 1767. There is a very good manse, which was built in 1776. The glebe consists of 5 English acres. There is no grafs.—There are two Seceding Societies in the parish; a Burgher meeting in Dunbar, and an Antiburgher one in East Barns. Their congregations are made up of a collection of people from all the parishes in the neighbourhood.

*Schools.*—There are 3 schools in Dunbar, a grammar school, a mathematical and an English one. The masters of these schools have each a house and genteel salary. They are chosen and paid by the town. This parish never had a parochial school till 1790, when one was settled by the heritors, (with a salary of L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling,) at West Barns, where it was much wanted, to accommodate the inhabitants of the west end of the parish, which is populous, containing about 800 inhabitants. There is a private school in East Barns with a salary,

salary, being the interest of L. 100 Sterling, mortified for that purpose by Mr William Hume, late farmer in that village. To this schoolmaster the family of Spot gives a house and garden *gratis*. The importance of a parochial school seems not sufficiently attended to. The moral principles, and future usefulness, of the lower class of people, depend very much upon their early education. This was the sense of the Legislature, when the law established a school, with a legal salary, in every parish in Scotland. Notwithstanding which, it is but too evident, that the schoolmaster, however valuable a member of society he may be, is often neglected, and ill used. How dishonourable to grudge and withhold from so useful an officer, the small pittance which the law has assigned, as the wages of severe labour and attendance! How unjust, when it is considered, that the schoolmaster's salary is no part of the heritor's property; for when an estate is purchased, that salary is deducted from the rental. The heritor, in that case, is only a trustee, and when he refuses or declines to pay his proportion, he keeps money in his pocket, which does not in fact belong to him, but to another.

*Poor*.—The number of poor is very great, as is the case in all country towns, especially such as are sea-ports. The frequent misfortunes, happening to seafaring people, often throw whole families of helpless children on the charitable funds. This indeed affords an opportunity of showing Christian benevolence, and the true Christian will readily embrace all such opportunities. To rear up orphans, destitute of friends, and to make them useful members of society,—to feed the hungry, and clothe the naked,—to support the aged, and relieve the distresses of the widow, will gratify the feelings of humanity, and, at the same time, ful-

fil the duties of that religion which we all profess. The provision for the poor is an annual assessment, by the heritors, according to their valued rents, in a joint meeting with the minister and elders.—The town pays a sixth part of this assessment; the remainder is paid, one half by the heritors, and the other half by their tenants. To this are added, the weekly collections at the church, and the profits arising from the mortcloths and a hearse. There is also the interest of a small mortification of L. 83 : 6 : 8 Sterling. All these sums are intrusted to the minister and kirk-session, as the fittest persons to judge and proportion the supplies according to the necessities of the poor\*.

*Antiquities.*—The venerable ruins of the castle of Dunbar, are justly esteemed a remarkable piece of antiquity. There is no history nor tradition to fix the date of this building, or to point out the person by whom it was erected. Camden narrates, that *Gospatrick*, Earl of Northumberland, retiring into Scotland from the Norman Conquest, was honoured by Malcolm Canmore with the castle of Dunbar, and earldom of March, and that his posterity afterwards took the surname of Dunbar. King Edward II. of England, escaped to this castle, (then in the hands of the English), after the battle of Bannockburn, and thence fled to Berwick in a fisherman's boat. It has been large, and built on several rocks, within the sea-mark. It was exceeding strong, and before the use of artillery, quite impregnable.

\* During the scarcity in the years 1782 and 1783, a considerable sum was subscribed by the inhabitants for the relief of the poor in the town, with which a quantity of oat meal was bought, and sold out at the reduced price of 1 s. the peck, when the current price was sometimes 2 s. 6 d. The country heritors supplied their poor, each in his own estate.

pregnable. In some old records, it is called Earl Patrick's *Strong House*. It was always esteemed a place of importance, and the key to Scotland on the S. E. border. Dunbar was, for many years, during the cruel wars between the two nations, the scene of much action and bloodshed. The town was frequently ravaged and burnt. The castle was often besieged, and sometimes bravely defended; particularly *anno* 1336, when under the government of a lady, called, *Black Agnes of Dunbar*, the wife of Patrick Earl of March, and the sister of Randolph Earl of Murray. This manly heroine, in the absence of her husband, by her vigilance and military courage, forced Lord Montague to raise the siege, and leave the country. To this castle, Earl Bothwell fled, and left the unfortunate Queen Mary in the hands of the associated Lords at Carberryhill. It was taken afterwards from Bothwell's dependents, by the Earl of Murray, the Regent of Scotland, and demolished, and the artillery was carried to Edinburgh, by order of the Parliament.

Within the parish of Dunbar, lies a part of Down Hill, famous for the encampment of General Leslie, with the Scotch army, before their defeat at the battle of Dunbar. This battle was fought in the low grounds, E. from Broxmouth. At Broxmouth, there is a mount of earth, which still retains the name of *Cromwell's Mount*. At the church yard, there is an elegant monument, with a fine marble statue, erected *anno* 1610, to the memory of George, the last Earl of Dunbar, and Lord High Treasurer of Scotland. In the church yard, there are two grave-stones, marking out the burial place of two officers of the castle; they are nicely cut, with Latin inscriptions in Saxon characters; the date of the one is MCCCL. and of the other MCCCLI.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is but little wood, which makes the country look naked. The land is thought too valuable to admit of much planting. About Broxmouth there are some large and venerable old trees. On the Links of West Barns, there is a small young plantation, and a very fine situation for a house. The post road runs from E. to W. the whole length of the parish, and is kept in good repair. There are two toll bars, one at the Kirk Hill, east from Dunbar, and the other on the west side, at Belhaven. There are four bridges maintained by the county. The cross roads are kept in good order by the statute labour.—The expence in dress, in furniture of the house, and in the table, is greatly increased from what was the mode half a century ago. This is indeed the case in general throughout every part of Scotland, in proportion to the progress of refinement and wealth, in the present advanced period of society. The yearly wages of a man-servant in a family is 7 guineas, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  guineas, and a woman-servant gets 3 guineas; a day-labourer, 1 s. a-day, and a woman for working in the fields, 6 d.; a gardener 1 s. 2 d.; a mason or carpenter, 1 s. 8 d. In harvest, the corn is cut down by day-labourers, and their wages vary according to circumstances, such as the weather, the number of reapers in the market to be hired, &c.—There is a good butcher market in Dunbar; beef and mutton bring 4 d. or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. pork and lamb in proportion. White fish are scarce and dear; salmon is brought from Berwick. A hen sells for 1 s. a duck for 10 d.; a goose for 2 s. 6 d. a turkey for 3 s. 6 d. or 4 s.; eggs, from 5 d. to 7 d. a-dozen; a lobster for 6 d.; butter,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  a-pound, cheese, 5 d.; potatoes and herrings furnish a great part of the poor peoples subsistence.

The grand and important question, *What can be done to better the condition of the people?* remains to be answered.

*Improve*

*Improve the morals of the people*, seems to be the best reply. Found their virtue on its true basis, *Religion*. Not on metaphysical speculation, but on the plain, capital, and universally allowed principles of Religion. *Improve the manners of the great*: Let those of distinguished rank assume a *public* profession of religion, and countenance it by their example. This would have a leading influence on the great body of the people. It would be a cheap and easy antidote against anarchy and disorder. This seems to be the true secret of government, the best bulwark of the state, as well as the surest means to advance the happiness of any particular district. Good morals are of more consequence to individuals, as well as to a state, than great wealth; nor should the latter be coveted, unless it can be obtained without injury to the former.



NUMBER XXXVII.

CITY OF GLASGOW,

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*From the Communications of several respectable Inhabitants  
of that City.*

---

## I.

## INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

IT cannot be expected, in a work of this kind, that a complete history of this city should be given. It is therefore only intended, to give a concise view of various particulars, tending to illustrate its ancient and present state; referring those, who wish to have a fuller account of its rise and progress, its public buildings, &c. to the histories of it already published, by M'Ure and Gibson.

Glasgow is situated in the nether ward of Lanarkshire or Clydesdale, on the banks of the river Clyde, which  
takes

takes its rise about 50 miles nearer the head of the shire. Its latitude  $55^{\circ} 51' 32''$  north, and its longitude  $4^{\circ} 15'$  west from London. A very accurate map of the city was published some years ago, by Mr M'Arthur, and a map of the royalty, under the inspection of the Magistrates, by the town's surveyor. It is proposed to publish a map of its environs for 7 miles.—The tide flows, (at least at spring tides,) nearly about 4 miles above the city; but the Clyde, until of late years, was only navigable to Glasgow by small vessels, and even these met with many obstructions from the numerous shoals and sand banks which were in it. This inconvenience was much felt by the inhabitants, and many proposals were made to have it remedied. As far back as the reign of Queen Mary, it is reported, that many hundreds of the citizens of Glasgow, in conjunction with the inhabitants of Renfrew and Dumbarton, under the inspection of officers appointed by the Magistrates, lived for six weeks, *per vices*, in tents and huts, about 13 miles below Glasgow, endeavouring to remove the obstruction of the river at Dumbuck Ford. These, or similar efforts, however, had not the desired effect; and hence, after several surveys, an act of Parliament was obtained in 1759, in order to render it navigable for large vessels, by means of locks. Many difficulties, however, having occurred, this scheme was dropped, and another act was afterwards obtained, for improving the navigation of the river, from Dumbuck Ford to Glasgow, by deepening the bed of the river, and straitening the channel by means of jetties on the sides of it; for defraying the expence of which, a tonnage duty of 8 d. a-ton on coals, and 1 s. a-ton on all goods and merchandize, that should be carried between Dumbuck Ford and the city, was allowed to be levied. In the year 1775, the work was so far finished, that the depth was increased so much, as to allow vessels drawing 6 feet

water to navigate to the city. By the strength given to the current of the river, by the jetties, and by the operations since that time, vessels drawing 7 feet 6 inches are now navigated to Glasgow, and vessels drawing 9 feet to Renfrew ferry. The money expended in these operations, with the interest thereon, amounts to upwards of L. 50,000. The first tonnage dues, that were levied, (from 1st July 1770 to 1st July 1771), amounted to L. 1021 : 5 : 1, since which they continued to increase gradually until July 1790, when the increase became still more rapid. From that time to July 1791, they amounted to L. 2144, 16 s. The next year they let for L. 2400, and this year (from July 1792 to July 1793), they are let for L. 3205. The debt on the river is now considerably reduced; and as the tonnage is every year increasing, it is hoped, that it will soon be altogether paid off. As it does not appear, that there are any rocks or great stones in the river, it is expected, that, by a continuation of the operations of dragging, and erecting jetties and dikes, the bed of the river may be brought to a level, from Dunghals to the quay of Glasgow; and that, in the course of a few years, vessels drawing 9 or 10 feet water, may be able to navigate to the city.

The See of Glasgow is said to have been founded about the year 560, by St Mungo, or Kentigern, and afterwards erected into an Archbishoprick in 1484. The cathedral, though by no means the most elegant or magnificent in Scotland, is still a very venerable monument of Gothic architecture, and the most entire in the kingdom. It is 284 feet long, 65 broad, and 90 feet high within the walls, with two large towers, on one of which a spire was built, about the year 1420, making the height 220 feet. The church itself was begun to be rebuilt, in the beginning of the 12th century, and was enlarged by Joceline, abbot of Melros, then bishop of Glasgow; and, from an inscription  
upon

upon a stone, above the entry to the choir of the church, it appears to have been dedicated during that prelate's incumbency, in the year 1197.

This cathedral is one of those few stately fabrics of Gothic architecture, which escaped destruction at the time of the Reformation, (when the indiscreet zeal, of the first reformers, levelled to the ground, almost every place of religious worship in the kingdom), being saved by the public spirit of the citizens. It appears, however, from the records of the Town-council, 19th January 1573, that, notwithstanding the care of the citizens to prevent the cathedral from utter destruction, a great part of the lead, staves, and other materials of the church, had been, through the disorders of the times, dilapidated: And that, although the city was not under any legal obligation, to uphold the fabric in repair, (that being incumbent on those then in possession of the See) yet they voluntarily taxed themselves in L. 200 Scotch, to repair the cathedral, though under express protestations, that such contributions should infer no precedent. Archbishop Spotiswood relates, that, in the year 1578, it had nearly been demolished, but was saved by the public spirit of the crafts, who took arms to prevent its destruction.

This cathedral was dedicated to St Mungo or Kentigern. It had 39 prebends attached to it, the prebendaries of which had houses and gardens in its neighbourhood, being obliged to reside there, and to employ curates or vicars in their respective parishes. After the Reformation, these houses were either sold or given to the noblemen or gentlemen, who were at that time favourites at court. One of them, which belonged to the prebendary of Douglas, was given to the Earl of Eglinton, and, after passing through several hands, was purchased by the city of Glasgow in 1635, who have since used it as the correction house. Another, which belonged to the parson of Glasgow, was given to Lord Kilmarnock,  
and

and is now an alehouse ; and a number of the others, which are still standing, are in similar situations. The cathedral is now divided into three separate places of worship, and considerable attention is paid every year to keep it in repair.

Nigh the cathedral, was the bishop's palace or castle, the great tower of which was built by John Cameron, formerly secretary of state, and afterwards, consecrated bishop of Glasgow in 1426. It was augmented by Bishop Beatoun, in the beginning of the 16th century, who built another tower, and inclosed the whole with a high stone wall of excellent workmanship. His successor, Bishop Dunbar, built a handsome gateway to the palace, fronting the church, on which his arms were engraven under the royal arms of Scotland, and which was standing a few years ago ; but both it and all the rest of the building having gone to ruin. The remainder has been ordered to be taken down, having been granted by the Crown, to erect an infirmary on the ground where it stood. In order to shew the situation it was reduced to, when this took place, two accurate drawings of it have been taken, which are to be framed and hung up in some of the rooms of the new building.

Almost all the towns of any antiquity, in Europe, owe their origin, to the situation of a castle, a cathedral, an abbacy, or a sea-port. These naturally gathered round them a variety of different persons, connected with these establishments, where they found protection and employment, amidst the disorders and violence, to which the inhabitants of the open country were frequently exposed. Glasgow evidently derives its origin from the establishment of its cathedral, near to which the houses of the old town were built, and which extended gradually towards the river, as the inhabitants turned their attention to commerce.—About  
the

the year 1172, Glasgow was erected by *William*, surnamed the *Lyon*, into a royal burgh, in favour of St Kentigern, and Joceline, bishop of Glasgow, which was confirmed and extended by subsequent kings. In 1450, King James the II. erected the city and barony of Glasgow into a regality, in favour of the bishop, who, the more effectually to secure the obedience of his vassals, tenants, and other inhabitants of the barony, appointed powerful nobles, bailies of the regality. This office was long in the family of the Dukes of Lennox, who, in 1621, acquired from the bishop an absolute grant of the office. The Duke of Lennox at length resigned it to the Crown, who, after the Revolution, until 1748, appointed bailies of the regality. And as this right was not abolished by the jurisdiction act, it is supposed to be still competent to the Crown to revive that office.

In 1611, King James VI. granted the city a very ample charter, by which he erected it into a burgh royal, to be holden under his Majesty in free burgage. In 1636, King Charles I. granted a charter to the city, to be holden of his Majesty, containing very ample powers and privileges, and confirming its power of electing a bailie on the river Clyde, whose district extends from the bridge to the Cloch, in which he exercises a maritime, civil, and criminal jurisdiction. This charter was afterwards ratified by act of Parliament, in 1661; and, after the Revolution, all former charters, and acts of Parliament in the city's favour, were confirmed by an act in 1690.

Although, from the period, in which Glasgow was first erected into a royal burgh, it held its commercial and political privileges by successive grants from the Crown; yet, as these grants were in favour of the bishop, he, afterwards the archbishop, and then the Lord of regality, (who, upon the abolition of Episcopacy, came in place of the archbishop), had the privilege of electing the Magistracy. In  
times,

times, however, of violence and disorder, this right was sometimes interrupted, and occasionally exercised by the King, by the Convention of Estates, by Parliament, or by the citizens themselves; but, according to the legal constitution of the burgh, before the Revolution, the bishops and Archbishops, and the Lord of Regality, on his coming in their place, did, previous to the 1641, elect the Provost annually, and also the Bailies, from leets for the latter, sent them by the Town-council. In more early times, the Council were nominated by the Provost and Bailies; so that, in reality, the Bishop, or Lord of Regality, had the nomination of the whole Magistracy of the town. But, in 1641, an act of Parliament gave to Glasgow free liberty of electing their own Magistrates yearly, with this exception, that the Provost, Bailies, and Council should present to James Duke of Lenox, then, in right of the Archbishoprick, Lord of the Regality of Glasgow, a leet of three persons to be Provost, one of whom the Duke should be obliged to nominate yearly, by himself or his commissioners present at the castle; and, in case of their absence, the election of the Provost was vested in the Magistrates and Council. This constitution continued till the restitution of Episcopacy in 1662, which restored the Archbishop to his ancient right of naming the Provost annually, and of choosing the Bailies out of the leets sent him by the Council, which gave him entirely the controul of the whole Magistrates and Council. At the Revolution, King William, with the advice of his Privy-council, authorised a new and free election of the Bailies and Council, by poll of the burgeses, and empowered the Magistrates and Council to elect the Provost. Afterwards, by an act of Parliament in 1690, the Town-council got the power of choosing their own Magistrates, and other officers of the burgh, as fully and freely as the city of Edinburgh, or any other royal burgh. The form  
and

and manner of this election, by the Town-council, has since varied, according to the different *sets*, or constitutions, adopted by the Council at different periods. In 1711, the former set underwent some alterations, which were confirmed by the Convention of Royal Burghs. In 1748, another set was adopted and agreed to by the Council, Merchants, and Trades Houses; and, being confirmed that year by the Convention of Royal Burghs, forms the present set, or form of government.

By it, the care of the public interest and revenue, is committed to the Lord Provost, three Bailies, Dean of Guild, Deacon Convener, Treasurer, Master of Works, 13 Merchant and 12 Trades Councillors. The Magistracy, or executive part of the government of the city, is vested in the Lord Provost and Magistrates, who find it a very laborious service, and the difficulties attending it are every day increasing, as the effects of an annual or biennial Magistracy, are scarcely able to restrain the irregularities of a numerous, increasing, and opulent commonalty. More than 200 years ago, when the Bishop was in use to chuse two, and sometimes three Bailies out of the leet sent him by the Council, the latter used frequently to complain, that the number was not adequate to the business of the office, and requested him to add one or two more to their number. This curious fact may serve to give some idea of the trouble attending upon it now, when the inhabitants are so much increased.

The citizens are divided into two ranks, merchants and tradesmen, which last consist of 14 incorporations. These, besides holding a monopoly in their different branches, are possessed of considerable funds for their own poor, and each of them have a subordinate government over their respective members, but no civil or criminal jurisdiction. We have no record when this distinction first took place; but we find, that, about the beginning of the 17th century, various



various disputes had arisen respecting their several rights and privileges. These were fixed, on a reference between the different parties in 1604, by a decret-arbitral, known by the name of the Letter of Guildry, which was confirmed by the Town-council that same year, and afterwards by an act of Parliament in 1672, by which the rights of the burgeses, the regulations of the Dean of Guild court, the election of the Dean of Guild and the Convener, and the constitution of the Merchants and Trades Houses, were fixed and settled.

The Town-court, for the decision of all civil causes, is held every Friday by the Bailies; who have also a court on Monday, for deciding all causes under 20 s. by a summary process; and, besides these stated weekly courts, the Magistrates daily decide in causes, which require summary discussion, without waiting the ordinary forms of court. They also exercise a criminal jurisdiction, in crimes whose punishment does not infer death or demembration, or farther banishment than beyond the liberties of the burgh.

The Dean of Guild, with the assistance of 4 persons chosen by the merchants and 4 by the trades, holds a court every Thursday, for determining in all matters relative to buildings, and differences arising from neighbourhood of property within the city, and also for regulating and overseeing the weights and measures. The Sheriff of Lanark, or his substitute, holds a court here every Wednesday. The Commissariat Courts of Glasgow, and of Hamilton and Campsie, are held on Thursday, and the Lords of Justiciary hold the assizes here in spring and autumn.

The revenue of the city, in the management of the Town-council, is about L. 7000 *per annum*, and arises from the rents of land and houses belonging to the community; from the rents of the church seats; from an impost of two pennies Scotch on every Scotch pint of ale, brewed or sold within  
the

the city or village of Gorbals, from certain dues, payable on all meal or grain brought into the city, and from the dues of crannage, &c. at the quay and weigh-house, and other small customs usual in royal burghs.

This city is joined with Rutherglen, Renfrew and Dumbarton, in sending one member to the British House of Commons, which seat is at present filled by William Macdowall, Esq; of Garthland. The armorial bearing of the city is, on a field parti. p. fefs, argent and gules, an oak tree, surmounted with a bird in chief, a falmon with a gold stoned ring in its mouth in base, and on a branch in the sinister side, a bell langued *or*, all proper. The motto, 'Let Glasgow flourish.' Before the Reformation, St Mungo's head mirrored, appeared in the dexter side of the shield, which had two falmon for supporters.

## II. COMMERCE.

The first branch of trade, in which the citizens of Glasgow engaged, seems to have been the curing and exportation of falmon, caught in the river Clyde. About the middle of the 16th century, they appear to have had vessels at sea, which made attacks on the shipping of the English. In the end of the 16th, and beginning of the 17th century, they, together with the inhabitants of Renfrew and Dumbarton, prosecuted the fishery of falmon and herring with great spirit, and to a considerable extent. In the reign of Charles the II. we find a privateer was fitted out in the Clyde, to cruise against the Dutch. In the latter end of the last century, the merchants of Glasgow continued to export their falmon and herrings, the principal market for which was France, from whence, in return, they imported considerable quantities of brandy, salt and

wines. About the same time, also, they sent some vessels to the Baltic, from whence they imported iron, and as the spirit of enterprise had now taken root, they adventured boldly in the unfortunate expedition to Darien.

The Union with England, in 1707, opened new views to the traders in Glasgow, having then liberty of a free commerce to America and the West Indies, which they had not before. Immediately, therefore, after this event, they began to take advantage of it, sending out goods for the use of the colonies, and returning with cargoes of tobacco. At first, they had no ships of their own in that trade, but employed English bottoms; and it was not until the year 1718, that a ship, the property of Glasgow, crossed the Atlantic. The tobacco trade of Glasgow was now, however, in such a thriving condition, that it so much excited the jealousy of the merchants in London, Bristol, Liverpool and Whitehaven, that they entered into a combination for the discouragement, if not the ruin of it. For this purpose, they accused the merchants of frauds against the revenue, first before the Commissioners of the customs at London, afterwards by petitions to the Lords of the Treasury, and when both these failed, by a direct application to the House of Commons. Though no fraud against the revenue could be detected, yet the powerful influence of the English merchants prevailed, and new officers having been appointed at Greenock and Port-Glasgow, in whose power it was to seize and harass the merchants, their scheme became successful, and the trade languished and declined until about the year 1735. At this period, it again revived, though not with its former vigour, the number of vessels belonging to Clyde, and at that time trading to America, the West Indies, the ports in the Mediterranean, Baltic, Ireland and the different towns upon the coast of Britain, being only 67, and their

their burden about 5600 tons. Between this period and the year 1750, the trade of Glasgow advanced, however, but slowly; and though the merchants then began to establish factors in America, and to increase the extent of their dealings, by disposing of the goods they sent out upon credit; yet the risk was thereby rendered infinitely greater, than it had been before, and the trade more speculative and uncertain. From that time, it continued to increase annually until the late war; and the reader may see in Gibson's History, an accurate statement of the imports and exports of the river Clyde, from the 5th January 1771 to the 5th January 1772, the greatest part of which belonged to the merchants of Glasgow. The importation of goods from America and the West Indies, in the year 1775, will give some idea of the extent of the trade, and was as follows:

Tobacco from Virginia,	-	40854 Hhds.
———— from Maryland,	-	15040
———— from Carolina,	-	1249
		————
Total,		57143 Hhds.

Sugar from Jamaica, and the other West

India Islands,	-	4621
		691 Tierces.
		462 Barrels.
Rum from the same,	-	1154 Puncheons.
		193 Barrels.
Cotton,	-	503 Bags.

By the American Colonies shaking off their dependence on this country, the intercourse between Glasgow and America was nearly put a stop to; and as the greatest part  
of

of the fortunes of the merchants in Glasgow was embarked in that trade, and very large sums owing them, which they were prevented from recovering, it proved the ruin of many; and would have been fatal to more, had it not been the great rise on the price of tobacco, which then fortunately took place, which enabled those who had a large quantity of that commodity, to stand the shock which their credit at that time received, and to make up in part for the immense losses sustained by them, in their American debts. Still, however, many individuals, who reckoned themselves possessed of independent fortunes, found themselves and families reduced to indigence, and unable to fulfil their engagements, with those to whom they were indebted; thus extending the misery, which this unfortunate war had brought on them, to a very wide circle, which is still felt by many, as debts, to a very large amount, are still due.

Though the commerce of the city was thus interrupted, yet the spirit, which had been raised, was not extinguished. The merchants, therefore, on being deprived of the American trade, began to look out for new sources, and accordingly extended their commerce to the West Indies and the continent of Europe, considerably more than before; and though the shipping, at the time of the greatest extent of the American trade, was more than it is at present, being then supposed to amount to near 60,000 tons, yet it appears to be considerably on the increase, as the ships belonging to Clyde in 1783 were only 386, and their tonnage 22,896; whereas in 1790 their number was 476, and their tonnage 46,581. This loss, however, in the foreign trade is amply compensated by the great increase of manufactures; the merchants having, of late, turned their attention more to improve the manufactures, which had been begun among them, and to establish new  
ones,

ones, which promise to be a source of much more permanent wealth than the other. Hence an event, which for a time diminished, and, it was feared, would ruin the trade of Glasgow, has eventually produced to its inhabitants the most solid advantages. The capital and enterprise of its traders, have, since that period, pursued different directions of employment. The combined powers of foreign trade, coasting trade, and manufactures, the two last of which have of late years made such prodigious strides, now operating on each other with redoubled energy, are plainly discernible, in the rapid increase of inhabitants and of new buildings; and bid fair to secure to its industrious and enterprising citizens, a growing and permanent fund of wealth and prosperity.

### III. MANUFACTURES.

Little information can be got concerning the manufactures of Glasgow before the Union, though, it is said, that of plaids was considerable; and though, at that time, a ropework and soapwork, and a refining of sugar were begun at Glasgow, yet neither these, nor any other manufacture seem to have been carried to any great extent, until they began to perceive how advantageously articles of manufacture could be disposed of, in their commercial intercourse with America. It was, therefore, in the period between 1725 and 1750, that the spirit for manufactures first became prevalent; and though it has ever since been increasing in energy, and diffusing its influence, its effects for a few years past have been wonderful. The variety of manufactures now carried on in Glasgow, which have extended in almost every branch, are very great; but that which seems, for some years past, to have excited the most

most general attention, is the manufacture of cotton cloths of various kinds, together with the arts depending on it. For this purpose cotton mills, bleachfields, and printfields, have been erected on almost all the streams in the neighbourhood, affording water sufficient to move the machinery, besides many erected at a very considerable distance; and though the number of these mills have increased greatly of late, yet they are still unable to supply the necessary quantity of yarn, required by the increased manufactures, as a considerable quantity is still daily brought from England. This trade not only employs a great number of persons in Glasgow, but is extended over a very large tract of country in the neighbourhood, many weavers being employed by the Glasgow manufacturers, 20 and 30 miles from the city. In 1791, it was computed, that they employed 15,000 looms; that each loom gave employment to nine persons at an average, including women and children, in the different stages of the manufacture, from picking the cotton wool, until the goods were brought to market, making in all 135,000 persons; and that each loom, at an average, produced goods to the value of L. 100 *per ann.* making L. 1,500,000. The increase, since that calculation was made, has been very great; but to what extent it is at present carried, cannot be said with any precision, for want of sufficient data. This manufacture is not only important in itself, but is productive of work to many thousands of bleachers, tambourers, callico printers, &c. many of whom, being women and children, whose work was formerly unproductive, renders it of still more importance to the country. Though this great manufacture has, in some measure, supplanted the linen trade, which used to be the staple manufacture of the west of Scotland, there is yet, however, a very great quantity of linens, lawns, cambries, checks, diapers, &c. still made,  
though

though the demand for cotton goods, has much diminished the consumption of these articles. There is also a considerable manufactory of carpets and coarse woollens, for which no place seems to be better adapted, being in the neighbourhood of a country where great quantities of sheep are raised. As the gentlemen in Scotland seem now to have turned their attention to the improvement of the breed of sheep, in such a manner as to give hopes of bringing the wool to its greatest perfection, there is no doubt, but this manufacture may be on carried to a very considerable extent.—As it is now managed in this part of the country, it bids fairer for continuing to thrive, and being more useful than formerly; being confined to those kinds of cloth, which are best adapted to the wool that is most commonly to be met with; such as, carpets, blankets, Kendal coatings, &c. whereas, formerly, superfine cloth was, in general, aimed at, an article for which our native wool was not originally calculated.

The *silk gauze* manufacture was carried on here for more than 20 years, with considerable success, but is now almost entirely gone.

This was the first place in Britain where the *inckle loom* was established, Mr Alexander Harvie having, in the year 1732, at a very great risk of his life, brought over a model of a loom, and one of the workmen from Haerlem, and begun the manufacture here. Since that time they have been erected in Manchester, and other places of the kingdom, but still form a very extensive branch in this city.

Delft ware, in imitation of the Dutch, was likewise first begun here of any place in Scotland; a work of that kind having been erected in 1748; since which it has been altered into the manufacture of stone or Queen's ware, in which very considerable improvements have been made of late, both in the quality, shapes, and colour of the ware; so  
that



that it nearly rivals some of the finest works of that kind in Staffordshire. All the coarser kinds of pottery, together with bricks, tiles, &c. are also made here in great abundance. A very considerable quantity of hats are likewise manufactured, not only for home sale, but for exportation to America and the West Indies, together with nun's thread, silk, cotton and worsted stockings, and gloves of all kinds. During the time of the American trade, large quantities of tobacco were manufactured into snuff, &c. and immense quantities of shoes and saddles made and exported to that country, for which purpose very extensive works were erected for tanning leather. These manufactures still continue, though perhaps not to the extent that they did at that time.

The manufactures of ropes and cordage of all kinds, the making of soap and candle, and the refining of sugar, which appear to have been the first that were begun here, are still carried on to a great extent, though they have lost the privileges, granted for their encouragement before the Union. The art of type founding, has been long practised here, and, (together with that of printing by Mr Saunders, Mr Urie, and the Messrs Foulis), has been brought to as great perfection, as in any part of the world. The introduction of the cotton manufacture, and those trades depending on it, has given rise to many new manufactures, and to the making machinery of all kinds, which, together with all kinds of work, in cast or malleable iron, and in brass and lead, are now made here in great quantities. The manufacture of bottles, or green glass, has been long established here, and is now considerably increased; and has of late been extended to flint glass, in which they have come to great perfection.

About the year 1760, a very extensive brewery was erected near Anderson, from which large quantities of ale and porter were exported to Ireland and to America.

Since

Since that time, a number of others of the same kind have been erected in the city, and so great is the additional increase in the use of malt liquors, that most part of what they now manufacture, is consumed at home. As porter brewed in the city, and its vicinity, is now much more drunk in public houses by tradesmen, than formerly, it has consequently diminished the consumption of whisky, that article so destructive to the health and morals of the people; though still it is to be lamented, that so much of it is yet made use of.

It would be difficult to enumerate all the different branches of manufacture carried on here; nor is it possible, with any precision, to ascertain their extent, and therefore any thing on that head would be mere conjecture. The consequence, however, of these works, is a very great increase in the wages of all kinds of manufacturers, mechanics and labourers; and notwithstanding the great increase of the inhabitants, and the many late inventions for abridging labour, there is still a difficulty to procure a sufficient number of hands, to perform the work of the different undertakings, which the people here have stock and spirit to carry on.—The weekly wages of journeymen tradesmen in Glasgow at present, are nearly as follows: shoemakers from 9 s. to 12 s.; women employed in binding shoes, from 5 s. to 7 s.; ordinary wrights, or carpenters, from 8 s. to 12 s. and some of the best workmen so high as from 12 s. to 18 s.; timber sawers, about 12 s.; ordinary masons, from 10 s. to 12 s. and the best workmen from 12 s. to 16 s.; printers compositors, from 10 s. 6 d. to 18 s.; pressmen, from 10 s. to 12 s.; bookbinders, from 7 s. to 10 s. 6 d.; weavers, from 12 s. to 14 s. and some of the best workmen, from 14 s. to 18 s. and even 20 s.; women and girls for winding yarn and tambouring, about 4 s.; old men and boys and girls, at different branches, (spinning, preparing

the yarn and cotton wool, &c. for weaving), from 6 s. to 8 s.; stocking weavers, from 5 s. to 10 s. and some of the best workmen, from 10 s. to 16 s.; women at seaming stockings, from 3 s. to 5 s. a-week. The foregoing rates of wages are earned by the different persons employed, by the job, or piece work. When labourers, such as barrowmen to masons, and others of similar description, are hired by the day, their wages are from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 6 d. a-day.

The increase of the commerce and manufactures of the city gave rise, in the year 1783, to a society, known by the name of *The Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures*; the intention of which was, to unite the influence of the merchants and manufacturers, and thus render them more useful to the communities, to which they belonged; and, by establishing a public fund, to give strength and efficacy to the measures of those who should interest themselves for the public good. A number of the merchants and manufacturers of Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock, &c. foreseeing the utility of this scheme, subscribed to it, and obtained a royal charter, incorporating them into a body politic, managed by 30 directors; and they have since employed their influence and funds, for the benefit and protection of the trade and manufactures established among us; and by their exertions, have been, in many instances, of essential service.

#### IV. POPULATION.

The information, with regard to the population of Glasgow, is copious and authentic. In August, 1609, a register of baptisms was begun; since which time, it has been well kept,

kept, and carefully preserved. Passing over the first year, in which several persons might registrate the names of their children, though they had been born some time before, we find,

In 1611	there were	268	children registrated.
1612		283	
1613		260	
1614		306	
1615		321	
1616		296	
1617		314	

The average number of which 7 years, is 294, which multiplied by 26, would make the number of souls in Glasgow 7644. In taking a view of the same register, before and after the Restoration, in 1660, we find it as follows :

In 1656	560
1657	515
1658	591
1659	591

The average number of which, being  $564\frac{1}{4}$ , multiplied by the same rule, gives 14,670.

In 1660	520
1661	482
1662	452
1663	438

The average number of which, being 473, makes, by the same rule, only 12,298. Whether this decrease in the population arose from some cause about the time of the Restoration, or whether, from some defect in the register of baptisms, cannot now be determined with precision; but, if the register is accurate, and to be reckoned a  
rule

rule for calculation, the city does not appear to have recovered the same population it had in 1659, until near the year 1720.

The register of deaths appears to have been very regularly kept, from the year 1694 to 1777, after which there is a blank for five years, owing to the person who kept the register having become superannuated; but from 1783, it has again been kept very regularly and exactly. At the beginning of this century, there were only two burying grounds, but since that time others have been opened both in the city and suburbs. And, as a number of the inhabitants of Glasgow are buried in these church-yards in the suburbs, and some of the inhabitants of the suburbs are interred within the city, it is necessary to take the numbers in all these burying grounds, in order to ascertain the population and increase of the inhabitants. The following table exhibits the average number for every 10 years, from the beginning of this century to the present time, of baptisms, proclamations of banns and burials. But it must be remarked, that the register of baptisms and proclamations relate only to the royalty, whereas the bills of mortality include also the suburbs.

	Proclamations.	Baptisms.	Burials.
In the year 1700,	110	415	361
Average from 1701 to 1710, inclusive,	120	500	493
————— 1711 to 1720,	137	576	639
————— 1721 to 1730,	147	609	711
————— 1731 to 1740,	139	503	728
————— 1741 to 1750,	193	712	823
————— 1751 to 1760,	258	890	1003
————— 1761 to 1770,	309	1040	1159
————— 1771 to 1780,	324	1038	1484
————— 1781 to 1790,	416	1222	1924
In the year 1790,	481	1402	2079
			From

From this table it may be remarked, that the city of Glasgow has been gradually increasing, but more remarkably since the Union of the two kingdoms, though most of all within the last 20 years. In making calculations, however, from these tables, it should be observed, that the list of baptisms for a considerable number of years past, is supposed to be considerably less than the truth, for the following reasons : That, about the year 1738, the unfortunate separation from the Church took place, which is known by the name of the Secession. This party carried away a considerable number of the inhabitants to a society by themselves ; a very able and respectable clergyman presided in their meetings ; they were at variance with the Established Church, and, fond of considering themselves as the Church of Scotland, they not only declined registering their childrens names in the common manner, but they opened separate registers, as well as separate churches. This separation still continues, and must, therefore, in a considerable degree, affect the register of baptisms, not only in this, but in every other place where the Secession has taken root. Another cause, which tends to lessen the number, is, that some of the inhabitants, not of the lowest rank, have of late years omitted the registration of their children's names, through inattention. In order, however, to assist any calculations in this matter, the result is subjoined of three different numerations which have been taken of the inhabitants. The first is the numeration procured by Dr Webster about 1743, when he was making his calculations for the widow's fund, which makes the number 18,366 ; but in his report made up *anno* 1755, the population of Glasgow and its suburbs, is stated at 23,546 souls. The other two were taken under the authority of the Magistrates, and done with precision and accuracy ; though it must be observed, that all these only relate to the royalty,  
or

or eight parishes of Glasgow, excluding the suburbs. One of these numerations was in the year 1785, when it was found, that there were 9285 houses in the city, from which deducting 183, being warehouses, or not inhabited, there remain 9102 inhabited houses. The number of males was 16,363; of females 19,776; total 36,139, which gives the number in each house  $3\frac{27}{100}$ , and the proportion of males to females about 5 to 6. The other numeration, which was made in summer 1791, was under such a variety of checks, that great confidence may be placed in it; the season of the year did not allow the students to be taken in, and the military were also excluded, as not being inhabitants. The result was 10,291 inhabited houses, and 41,777 inhabitants, male and female, within the royalty and New Town, which gives the number in each family about  $4\frac{1}{8}$ . In these years the number of baptisms and burials within the city, exclusive of the suburbs, were,

	Baptisms.	Burials.
In 1743,	678	695
1785,	1236	1451
1791,		1551

But a more just opinion of the population of Glasgow will be found, by considering it as connected with its suburbs, from an enumeration of these also made in the year 1791, as follows :

Number

Number within the city, as stated above,	-	41777
----- in the village of Caltoun,	-	6695
----- of Anderston,	-	3895
----- of Grahamston,	-	896
----- of Gorbals,	-	6448
----- of Cowcaddins Parkhouse, &c.	1257	
----- of Camlachie,	-	977
		<hr/>
	Total,	61945
The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, amounting on-		
ly to,	-	23546
		<hr/>
The increase consequently is,	-	38399

Shettleston, N. Woodside, and the other parts of the Barony parish, are not considered as part of the suburbs, being about from 2 to 3 miles from the centre of the city.

In looking over the bills of mortality the following years appear to be unhealthy, as the number of deaths, in each of them, very considerably exceeds the average, *viz.* 1723, 1740, 1741, 1748, 1751, and 1772.

The total bill of mortality in 1792, was 2479.

In addition to these accounts, the following tables, may appear to be interesting, by furnishing materials for comparison with other places.



T A B L E I.

Number of males and females, who have died within 9 years, from 1763 to 1771, and in the same space from 1783 to 1791, inclusive, together with their average, and the proportion that average bears to 1000, taken from the register of the burying grounds within the city, where the particulars have been accurately marked.

	Real Numbers.			Average.			Prop. to 1000.	
	Males.	Fem.	Tot.	Males.	Fem.	Tot.	Males.	Fem.
From 1763 to 1771.	5178	5595	10773	575 $\frac{3}{8}$	621 $\frac{6}{8}$	1197	480.646	579.354
From 1783 to 1791.	6198	6559	12757	688 $\frac{6}{8}$	728 $\frac{7}{8}$	1417 $\frac{4}{8}$	485.851	514.149

T A B L E II.

Ages of those who have died within these periods; together with their average, and the proportion they bear to 1000, taken from the same date.

	From 1763 to 1771.			From 1783 to 1791.		
	Real Num.	Aver.	Prop. to 1000.	Real Num.	Aver.	Prop. to 1000.
Under 2.	4797	533	445.280	5321	591 $\frac{2}{8}$	417.104
From 2 to 5.	1345	149 $\frac{4}{8}$	124.849	1521	169	119.224
5 to 10.	447	49 $\frac{8}{8}$	41.492	490	54 $\frac{4}{8}$	38.410
10 to 20.	367	40 $\frac{7}{8}$	34.067	526	58 $\frac{4}{8}$	41.232
20 to 30.	514	57 $\frac{1}{8}$	47.712	741	82 $\frac{3}{8}$	58.086
30 to 40.	491	54 $\frac{2}{8}$	45.577	685	76 $\frac{1}{8}$	53.696
40 to 50.	536	59 $\frac{5}{8}$	49.754	744	82 $\frac{6}{8}$	58.321
50 to 60.	570	63 $\frac{3}{8}$	52.910	773	85 $\frac{8}{8}$	60.594
60 to 70.	656	72 $\frac{8}{8}$	60.893	908	100 $\frac{8}{8}$	71.177
70 to 80.	659	73 $\frac{2}{8}$	61.171	748	83 $\frac{1}{8}$	58.635
80 to 90.	326	36 $\frac{2}{8}$	30.261	268	29 $\frac{7}{8}$	21.008
Above 90.	65	7 $\frac{2}{8}$	6.034	32	3 $\frac{2}{8}$	2.508
	10773	1197	1000	12757	1417 $\frac{4}{8}$	1000

T A-

T A B L E III.

Number of those who have died in each month of the year, within these periods, together with their average, and the proportion they bear to 1000, taken from the same dates.

	From 1763 to 1771.			From 1783 to 1791.		
	Real Num.	Aver.	Prop. to 1000.	Real Num.	Aver.	Prop. to 1000.
January,	1103	122 $\frac{5}{8}$	102.385	1268	140 $\frac{8}{9}$	99.396
February,	988	109 $\frac{7}{8}$	91.711	1117	124 $\frac{1}{8}$	87.560
March,	1022	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	94.867	1154	128 $\frac{2}{8}$	90.460
April,	891	99	82.707	953	105 $\frac{8}{8}$	74.705
May,	858	95 $\frac{3}{8}$	79.643	960	106 $\frac{6}{8}$	75.253
June,	768	85 $\frac{3}{8}$	71.289	934	103 $\frac{7}{8}$	73.215
July,	750	83 $\frac{3}{8}$	69.619	939	104 $\frac{3}{8}$	73.607
August,	816	90 $\frac{6}{8}$	75.745	995	110 $\frac{2}{8}$	77.996
September,	850	94 $\frac{4}{8}$	78.901	1046	116 $\frac{2}{8}$	81.994
October,	851	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	78.994	1049	116 $\frac{5}{8}$	82.229
November,	888	98 $\frac{6}{8}$	82.428	1048	116 $\frac{4}{8}$	82.151
December.	988	109 $\frac{7}{8}$	91.711	1294	143 $\frac{7}{8}$	101.434
	10773	1197	1000	12757	1417 $\frac{4}{8}$	1000

V. POLICE.

The increased population of the city, arising from the various branches of manufactures established in it, has necessarily occasioned a greater dissoluteness of manners and more crimes; and hence the necessity of a bridewell, or workhouse, for the punishment and correction of lesser offences, became evident. This institution was begun in the year

1789, when, in order to try the effects of a plan of solitary confinement and labour, some buildings belonging to the city, and formerly used as granaries, were fitted up as separate cells, for the confinement of persons guilty of crimes meriting such punishment. These have been gradually increased to the number of 64, where the prisoners are kept separate from one another, and employed in such labour as they can perform, under the management of a keeper, and under the inspection of a committee of council, who enquire into the keeper's management, &c. The members of the town council, also, in rotation are appointed to visit, not only this, but the prison and cells near the hospital, once every week, and report whatever appears to them proper, either to be rectified or altered. The keeper has a record of the sentences, on which each prisoner is confined,—keeps an exact account of the wages of their labour, and after defraying the expence of their maintenance, the surplus is paid to them, when the period of their confinement expires; and some have received from L. 5 to L. 7. Experience in this and other great towns, where this institution has been established, has demonstrated, that of all the species of punishment for offenders of a certain description, solitary confinement and labour is not only the most humane, but the best calculated to answer one great end of punishment, the amendment of the offender.—Such an establishment is now become absolutely necessary in a manufacturing city; for several British statutes assign the house of correction, as the punishment of workmen and apprentices, who offend against the laws introduced for the protection of manufactures, and for the regulation of that numerous and useful body of the community; and it tends to give habits of industry, to those whose offences arise from a dissolute and idle life. The growing manufactures and population of the city requiring more  
extensive

extensive accommodations, than the present bridewell can afford, the Magistrates and Council propose to erect a new one, more properly calculated for the ends proposed, and on such a plan, that additions can be made to it from time to time, as the circumstances of the city may require. The good effects of this will, it is hoped, be experienced by the community, and towards the expence of it they have already received two considerable benefits.

About the middle of last century, the flesh market was held on the sides of the Trongate, the most public street of the city, and the same place served for the shambles. The disagreeable objects, presented by so nauseous a practice, suggested a public market near the spot where the late guard-house stood.—Still however the flesh market and shambles were within the same area.—A few years ago a farther improvement was introduced; the shambles or slaughter houses were placed by the side of the river, near the old bridge, and the market was removed to King-street; from whence there is an easy communication to the shambles, and where a very spacious beef market is erected on the east side of that street, the stalls of which are under roofed pillars, having in the centre a large paved area open above.—On the opposite side of the street there are similar buildings, part of which are used as a mutton market, and the rest as markets for fish, potatoes, butter and cheese.—The flesh markets being now found too small for the supply of the inhabitants, the Magistrates and Council propose to remove the potatoe, cheese and butter markets to a situation, behind the weigh-house, where suitable accommodations are to be made for them, and to appropriate the whole of the markets in King street for flesh markets.—There is also a very commodious market for the disposal of garden stuffs, the consumption of which is very considerably increased within these few years.

Among

Among the improvements proposed at present in the city, we may mention that of building barracks for the accommodation of the military stationed here.—These have hitherto, from the peculiar circumstances of the law in this country, been quartered among the lowest set of the inhabitants; and in a large and populous city, not being under the immediate eye of their officers, have occasioned much irregularity and many inconveniencies, both to themselves and the citizens.—It is much to be wished, that the scheme, at present in agitation by the Magistrates, may be accomplished; as it will tend much not only to the comfort of the military, but to the ease of the inhabitants.

## VI. THE CHURCH.

It has been already mentioned, that Glasgow became at a very early period, the seat of a religious establishment. From the time of Kentigern to the Reformation, an almost uninterrupted succession of bishops, and latterly of archbishops, continued to preside in this see. Upon the Reformation, one minister, who was superintendant of the west of Scotland, officiated in Glasgow, and had the pastoral charge of its inhabitants. The session of Glasgow was regularly constituted, of one minister, 35 elders, and 26 deacons, on the 7th November 1583. At this period, and for a long time subsequent, the session was assisted in judging of matters of scandal, by an inquest summoned from the neighbourhood. As late as May 1622, this inquest was summoned, for the purpose of trying the behaviour and life of John Baillie and Agnes Wilson. In 1636 public worship was performed in three different churches, the High Church, the Tron Church and the Black Friars Church; and the same number continued till after the Revolution.

volution.—In 1691 a fourth was added.—Glasgow, though originally only one parish, was afterwards, for the benefit of the poor, and ease of the ministers, divided into 7, and lately into 8 parishes; which is the number of the churches, in which public worship is performed by ministers of the Presbyterian establishment. The churches are, the Inner High Church, the Outer High Church, the Tron Church, the College Church, the Wynd Church, the North West Church, St Andrew's Church, and St Enoch's Church. The ministers are, in the same order,—Dr *William Taylor*, Mr *Robert Balfour*, Dr *John Maccaull*, Dr *John Gillies*, Dr *William Porteous*, Mr *Alexander Rankin*, Dr *William Lockhart*, and Mr *William Taylor*.

These ecclesiastical charges are all, except the Inner High Church, under the patronage of the Town Council. The stipend of each of the ministers was at first L. 90, which in 1723, was, augmented to 2000 merks, in 1762 to 2500 merks, and in 1788 to L. 165, without manse or glebe. The Inner High Church is under the patronage of the Crown, and its minister enjoys a glebe.

Besides the above churches, there are also three chapels of ease, under the inspection of the Presbytery of Glasgow. The College Chapel, in which divine service is ordinarily performed by preachers, or licentiates in divinity. The free Presbyterian meeting-house, formerly connected with the Presbytery of Relief, but restored to the communion of the Established Church in 1774. This congregation is very numerous, and divine service is at present performed in it, by Messrs *John Macleod* and *Archibald Williamson*, with salaries, the former of L. 100, the latter of L. 70 Sterling. There is also a Gaelic chapel, in which the service is performed partly in Gaelic, partly in English, by Mr *Angus Mackintosh*, with a stipend of L. 115 yearly.

Besides

Besides these houses and establishments for the exercise of the public ordinances of religion, agreeable to the institutions of the Church of Scotland, there are various other places of worship, occupied by Dissenters. There are two Burgher and one Antiburgher meeting-houses; an English chapel, with two officiating clergymen; a place of worship belonging to a congregation of Independents; one or perhaps two for Anabaptists; one for Glasfites; a large Methodist meeting-house, the congregation of which are not at present on the increase; two large houses and two congregations of the Relief communion; besides a large church in Anderston, another in the Caltoun, and a Popish meeting, which is conducted with such discretion, that it cannot give the slightest cause of offence.

#### VII. CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Before the Reformation, almost every charitable donation was vested in the church; and its revenues, together with those charities, whose object went no higher than the preservation of life, were dispensed by the clergy. Charities of a higher order, which regard the character and former situation of their objects, were scarcely known, except by their hospitality; and when the church was overturned by the Reformation, the sacrilegious rapacity, which accompanied it, seized on every thing within its reach, leaving very few remains of ancient beneficence.

*St Nicholas Hospital.*—Of all the charitable institutions, connected with the Roman Catholic cathedral of Glasgow, none has descended to the present time, except St Nicholas hospital, founded by Bishop Muirhead, about the middle of the 15th century, for the maintenance of 12 old men and a priest; but its revenue has been almost entirely dilapidated,

ted, and even now, after the greatest efforts, yields little more than L. 20 a-year.

*Merchants Hospital.*—It is not known, at what time the merchants of Glasgow first formed themselves into a society, but that they had an hospital for the relief of their poor, previous to the year 1605, is evident from the letter of Guildry. Neither can it now be ascertained, what were the funds of the society at that time; but, in the year 1659, this hospital, being found to be in a decayed condition, was agreed to be taken down, rebuilt, and enlarged; which was accordingly done, and the expence chiefly defrayed by contributions from the members. The stock, at that time, seems to have been about L. 2000, but has now arisen, from payments by the members, and from mortifications, to above L. 17,000. Their revenue is at present above L. 1000 *per annum*, part of which is employed for particular purposes, expressly specified by the mortifiers; and the rest is applied for the relief of decayed members, their widows and descendants.

*Trades Hospital.*—The Trades Hospital also existed before 1605, and its funds have increased in the same manner. The present revenue exceeds L. 500, and arises from the interest of their stock, and rents of houses; together with some annual payments from the 14 incorporations, each of whom have a certain number of poor people supported by it.

*Incorporations.*—The different incorporations have also each of them a revenue and fund of their own, distinct from the general fund, which is destined for the support of decayed members, their widows, and children. And in the same manner, the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, established by charter in 1559, and the Faculty of Procurators, have each considerable funds for the same purposes.

*Hutcheson's Hospital.*—Hutcheson's Hospital was founded by George Hutcheson of Lambhill, in the year 1639, and  
farther



farther endowed by his brother Thomas, in the year 1641, for the support originally of 12 old men and 12 boys. The patrons of this hospital are a Preceptor, the Magistrates and Council, and ministers of the city; and, from their good management, and various donations which the hospital has received, the funds have increased very considerably; so that the annual income is now above L. 1500; which is employed so as to have the least possible bad influence on the industry of the people, by following out the intentions of the founders, in supporting old men, who have been of character and credit in the city, by giving them pensions from L. 5 to L. 20 *per annum*. And of late years the charity has been extended to women of the same description, in pensions of from L. 5 to L. 15. A part of it has also been allotted, to give clothing and a pension of L. 3 *per annum*, to a number of boys for 4 years; during which time they receive a complete education in reading, writing, and common arithmetic; after which they are bound apprentices to different trades.

*Town's Hospital.*—The Town's hospital, or Poor's House, was founded in the year 1730. It was intended to maintain and give good education to orphans, or those who were left destitute, to afford an asylum to the old, and to promote the best interests of all, in the cheapest possible manner.

The fixed revenue of this hospital is,

From the Town-council,	-	L. 220	0	0
From the Merchants House,	-	110	0	0
From the Trades House,	-	170	0	0
From the General Session,	-	300	0	0
Interest of the capital arising from donations,		125	0	0
		<hr/>		
Carried forward,		L. 925	0	0

Brought forward,	L. 925	0	0
To which is to be added the annual assessment on the inhabitants, which, in 1789, was,	1200	0	0
Money received from boarders that year,	98	5	6
• Produce of manufactures,	-	177	5 11
		<hr/>	
	L. 2400	11	5

The expenditure for the same year, was as follows :

Expence of 318 persons, in the house, salaries to the mistress, (clerk and schoolmaster included),	L. 1749	7	6½
Nursing wages to 56 children out of the house,	207	4	0
Half nursing wages to 59 children, ditto,	119	15	10
Meal to 146 families, in different proportions,	237	3	9
Clothing 14 boys when bound apprentices,	12	11	7
Charity schools,	-	30	0 0
Interest paid,	-	18	4 11
Deficiency,	26	3	9½
		<hr/>	
	L. 2400	11	5

In this hospital the poor are well lodged, cloathed, and fed ; the house is kept clean and well aired ; the young are instructed in the principles of religion, in reading English, and a little writing ; and are employed in such labour as is fitted for them, as making thread lace, tambouring mullins, setting card teeth, &c. The old women are employed in spinning, cleaning the house, and, as far as they can, doing the work of the family. Some of the old men weave, and others are employed in such business as they can perform.

The hospital also contains a small infirmary, where the sick are accommodated with medical assistance, and where operations are performed when necessary ; and it has also a number of cells for the reception of insane persons. The whole is visited in rotation, and a written report signed 5 days in each week, by one of the directors, who are annually appointed, and of whom 8, with the preceptor, sit every Tuesday, for the purpose of admitting paupers to the benefit of the charity, and other necessary purposes

TABLE, shewing the expence of the Town's Hospital, and the consumption of certain articles in it, at different periods.

	1740	1780	1790	
Number in the hospital,	259	254	330	
Coit of each, <i>p r ann.</i>	L. 3 4 5	L. 4 8 2	L. 4 9 9	
Quantity of peafe meal,	6			bolts, (8 ft. Dutch.)
oat-meal,	444	573	659	ditto.
butcher meat,	442	478	569	stones, (22½ lb. Eng.)
Coit of herrings,	L. 9 0 0	L. 14 0 0	L. 16 0 0	
Quantity of barley,	27	75	109	cwts. (English.)
peafe,	8	24	23	bolts *
groats,	18	7	8	bolts, (8 ft. Dutch.)
butter,	57	118	133	stones, (22½ lb. Eng.)
cheefe,	120	210	276	ditto.
Number of eggs,	497	2467	2138	dozens.
Quantity of falt.	45	36	44	cwts.
coals,	701	633	612	carts.
candle,	28	36	51	stones. (English.)
ale,	2166	2560	2304	galls. (32 pints Eng.)
pot-herbs,	386	730	730	stones. (22½ Eng.)
potatoes,		15	20	bolts, (662 lb Eng.)
sweet milk,	1019	2100	2920	pints, (4 pints Eng.)
butter milk,	4493	10,214	8766	ditto.
Expence of cloathing,	L. 106 0 0	L. 149 0 0	L. 189 0 0	
shoes,	17 0 0	39 0 0	67 0 0	
furgeon, &c.		41 0 0	114 0 0	
premiums,		25 0 0	18 0 0	
petty provisions,	46 0 0	81 0 0	89 0 0	
petty charges,	33 0 0	94 0 0	119 0 0	
Value, manufactures fold †,	60 0 0	90 0 0	207 0 0	
Number of boys, out of the house, put to apprentice-ships,		30	23	
Number of persons supplied with meal out of the hospital.		188	185	
Quantity of meal given to them,		565	439	bolts, (8 stone Ditch.)
Number of children paid for out of the house,		138	125	
Amount of wages paid for nursing them,		L. 308 0 0	L. 394 0 0	

\* The measure of each boll, is 22 Scotch, or 88 English pints.

† The amount of manufactures fold in 1792, is L. 354:7:10.

The *General Sessions* have a revenue of from L. 1300 to L. 1400 *per annum*, arising from the interest of sums mortgaged to them, and their own capital; from sums given by many at the time of their marriage; from donations at funerals, which are never less than L. 5, and never exceed 10 guineas, (in which case the bells of the city are tolled); and from the collections at public worship, amounting to near L. 1000 *per annum*.

This revenue, after defraying scarcely any expence of management, is laid out in paying sums agreeable to the will of those who mortgaged money to it; in paying L. 300 a-year, towards the expence of the Town's hospital, and in giving about L. 60 every 4 weeks, to the particular Sessions, by whom it is distributed to the poor of their respective parishes; and the remainder is also divided in the same manner, as an additional supply to the poor in the winter season.

The Sessions likewise of the other religious meetings in town, such as the Episcopal, Associate congregation, Burghers, Relief, Methodists, Independents, Anabaptists, &c. have all funds of the same kind, for the support of the poor of their respective communities.

Besides these charities, which are distributed to the poor and necessitous in general, there have been, at different times, sundry institutions for particular purposes, whose funds are now very considerable; and which are managed by the members, or people appointed by the regulations of each, agreeable to certain rules laid down; such as,—

1. *Buchanan's Society*, founded in 1725, for the relief of persons of the name of Buchanan, and their children:—
2. *The Highland Society*, begun in 1727, for the purpose of clothing, and binding apprentices, the children of Highland parents, who are unable to do it themselves:—
3. *The Marine Society*, first begun in 1758, and incorporated

in

in 1789, by act of Parliament, for the relief of seamen belonging to the river Clyde, and their families, the funds of which arise from a small sum collected from their wages:—4. *Tennant's Mortification*, in 1739, for the relief of widows, and of certain sums to be lent out for 5 years, to one person without interest:—5. *Mitchell's Mortification*, established in 1733:—6. *Graham's Society*, erected in 1759, for the relief of people of that name:—7. *Glasgow Society of the Sons of Ministers of the Church of Scotland*, established in 1790, for the benefit of the children of the Clergy:—8. *The Humane Society*, established in 1790, on the same principles with the one in London, for recovering persons supposed to be drowned:—9. *Coulter's Mortification*, 1790, of L. 1200, the interest of which is to be applied, for the relief of persons who had been in a respectable situation in life:—10. *The Society for the Relief of Sick Strangers*, begun in 1791, and supported by subscriptions:—11. *Stirling's Mortification*, in 1791, of L. 2000, as a fund for beginning a public library, which is now increasing very considerably by subscriptions.

There is also an *Infirmary* begun upon an extensive plan, towards erecting which, such a sum is already subscribed, as has induced the managers to begin it. The plan of the building is by the late Mr Adams; and there is little doubt, but that this benevolent institution will be supported by such future subscriptions, as will render it of general utility to the west country.

Independent of these public charities, there are in Glasgow a number of societies, known by the name of *Friendly Societies*, instituted for the purpose of supporting their members when in distress. These arose with the manufactures, and have advanced and increased along with them; and in these, we may trace with pleasure, the various connections of society, leading men into the field of benevolence,

benevolence, and engaging in a mutual insurance against poverty. Persons either of the same name, or coming from the same county, or employed in the same trade, or living in particular streets of the city, or having been in similar situations, are associated together; and by weekly or monthly payments, amounting to about 4 s. in the year, create a fund and revenue, out of which their wants are supplied, when they are disabled from attending to their ordinary occupations, either by occasional distress, or the infirmities of age; and this as a right, and without the humiliating idea, that they are receiving charity.

The frugality and good sense, with which these societies are generally managed, deserves a more particular explanation. When any of their members are sick, or otherwise disabled, they are visited by some of the society, accompanied by a surgeon. If the disease is pretended, or brought on by debauchery, they are not found entitled to the supply; but if the case is real, they report whether the patient is confined to his bed, or otherwise incapable of working. If he is confined to bed, they order the highest provision that their regulations allow, which in most cases amounts to 5 s. a-week, and which is instantly and regularly paid, during the time he continues in that situation. If the patient is not confined to bed, a lower provision is ordered, agreeable to the nature of the case, and which is commonly from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. *per* week. At the expence of the society, he is visited by a surgeon while necessary, and afterwards during his convalescence, by some of the members who have the charge of that department, and who regularly report his situation to the society; and as soon as he is able to work, the weekly payment is withdrawn. In some of these societies, a certain sum is allowed to defray the funeral of a poor member, and a sum is given to his widow on his decease.

Those

Those, who incline, may become members of more than one society, and when they are in distress, they receive the stipulated support from each; so that a person, who chuses to spare a little money, in the time of health, has the pleasure of seeing plenty in his family, when he is no longer able to provide for them. These societies seem to be the best support, for the relief of the work people in a manufacturing country, as it makes them look forward in time of health and prosperity, to the calamities and misfortunes which are so incident to human life; and by appropriating a part of their earnings, which they can then easily spare, affords them the satisfaction of knowing they will be supported, when reduced by sickness or old age, to be unable to work for themselves, without the humiliating necessity of supplicating the charity of the benevolent, or being a burden on their friends.—Besides, this method of support is no bar to industry, which many of the charitable institutions of this country has been reproached with, as it holds up no certain subsistence for the idle or the profligate; and by supporting the industrious tradesman in the midst of his family, does not loosen the bands of natural affection, or take him out of the world, and the society to which he has been accustomed\*.

## VIII.

\* It is impossible, in a work of this nature, to give a particular account of the numerous societies of this kind, or the rules by which they are governed, which differ according to circumstances; and though considerable pains has been taken, to procure information of the sums which are in this manner expended annually, yet, from unavoidable circumstances, it has been impossible to get it correct, and therefore we can only give the names and sums of such as have come to our knowledge.

VIII. EDUCATION.

As Scotland has been always honourably distinguished, by the superior education of the lower classes of her inhabitants, so this important article has had considerable attention paid to it in Glasgow, by institutions of various kinds; many of which, at the same time that they provide for the instruction of the youth, also provide for their comfortable clothing.

		The	
Ayr shire, - - -	L. 15	Young shepherds, - -	L. 10
Fife shire, - - -	12	Old fawers, - - -	25
Lanark shire, - - -	30	Johnston's stocking makers,	50
Ditto Upper Ward, - - -	30	Johnston and Bannatine's ditto,	40
Lefmahago, - - -	12	Tanners and curriers, - -	20
Bell's Wynd, - - -	25	Tobacco spinners, - -	60
Drygate, - - -	20	Bannatine and Anderson weavers,	45
High Street, - - -	25	Journeymen comb makers,	5
Old Green, - - -	26	Hammermen, - - -	40
Old Trongate, - - -	12	Journ. old shoemakers, - -	45
New Wynd journ. weavers,	7	— rope makers, - - -	20
St Mungo, - - -	35	— slaters, - - -	14
Stable Green Port, - - -	25	— new stocking makers,	10
Old N. Quarter journ. weavers,	40	— tailors, - - -	40
New ditto, - - -	6	Brown's, - - -	15
Old Wynd ditto, - - -	48	Bon Accord, - - -	10
Carters, - - -	35	St Crispin, - - -	80
Cotton spinners, - - -	40	Grand Antiquity, - -	10
Curriers, - - -	20	Red, - - -	15
Deacons and free presbytes,	10	Unfeigned Friendship, - -	13
Flax dressers and rope makers,	17	Old Friendly, - - -	14
Horse hirers, - - -	30	Glasgow Freeborn. †	15
Potters, - - -	15		
Printers and bookbinders,	10		

The



The following is the present state of such institutions in this city :

*Hutchefon's Hospital* formerly mentioned, along with a mortification of Scott of Scottstarvet, under the management of the Magistrates, Council, and Ministers, clothes and educates 48 boys, for a course of four years ; during which time, 32 of them have an annual pension of L. 3 each, and all of them, at leaving the school, are completely clothed, and bound apprentices to different trades.— The *Town's Hospital* clothes and educates all the boys and girls who live in it, upwards of 100 in number, and, when at a proper age, binds them apprentices to trades, or gets

The sums expended annually, by the following societies not having been obtained, the names can only be given.

Argyle shire,	Incle Weavers,
Dumbarton shire,	Silver Craig's factory, ditto,
Galloway shire,	Porters,
Lothian shire,	Shepherds,
Eight Northern shires,	Young sawers,
Perth shire,	Old stocking makers,
Stirling shire,	Victuallers,
North country,	Journeyman brewers,
Water of Endrick,	———— bakers,
Old Monkland,	———— coopers,
Glasgow Renfrew,	———— masons,
Kilbarchan,	———— rope spinners,
Webfield,	———— shoemaker's widows,
Bridgegate,	———— weavers,
Campbell Street,	———— wrights,
Bookbinders,	King's Freeman,
Brewers,	Macfarlan's,
Bricklayers,	Thomson's,
Chairmen,	Watson's,
Chapmen,	Old Men's,
Cloth Lappers,	Glasgow Friendly.
Cowfeeders,	

gets them into service.—The *Highland Society* clothe about 60 boys annually, binding them apprentices to trades, and attending to their education during their apprenticeship.

Mr *Wilson* of London, who formerly had gone from this city, impressed with the advantages of education to the lower class of people, in 1778, mortified L. 3000 for the purpose of educating and clothing boys. This fund has been augmented by sundry donations from other persons, and now educates 48 boys, who, at the end of 4 years, are also completely clothed, and bound apprentices to trades.—Besides these, *Crawford's School* gives education to 48 boys and girls, *Tennent's* to 96, and *Baxter's* to 48, though without clothing.—There are also, of late, some schools set apart for girls, such as *Lennox's* school, which educates 48, and *Peadie's*, which educates about 30, in reading, sewing and knitting.—A fund of above L. 7000, has likewise been lately left by Mr *Archibald Millar*, for educating and clothing girls in a genteel way during a course of 5 years.—A neat school-house is now building for that purpose, where it is proposed to instruct them in every branch of education suited to their station.

To all these, are to be added 11 *Sunday Schools*, which were begun in 1787, and have since been supported by voluntary subscriptions, intended to preserve the education formerly given, to increase knowledge, and to form good habits, in which schools there are at present about 640 boys and girls. So that there are thus about 1200 children, regularly educated in such branches as are proper for them, without any expence to their parents.—At the same time, the children of such as are able to afford them education, are, in general, not neglected, as the presbytery of Glasgow, having a few years ago ordered all the schools

within their jurisdiction, to be visited by some of their members, they found in this city above 60 schools, in which the masters were entirely supported by school wages, from 5 s. to 1 s. 6 d. the quarter. In the greater part of these, nothing was taught but reading English, the Catechism, and perhaps a little writing. It may be proper here to observe, that in the present state of this city, it is of the greatest importance to prevail on parents, to send their children to school at 6 years of age; for if their education is then neglected, it is in great danger of being lost for ever. The manufactures find employment for children between 7 and 8 years of age, and even then their work will bring from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. *per* week.—This becomes a temptation scarce to be resisted by poor families.—The only method, therefore, by which the education of the poor can be secured, is by giving it early, and supporting the Sunday schools, which may prevent such education as they have got being lost.

With regard to the education of the higher classes of the inhabitants, there are many public teachers of the living languages, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Mathematics, &c. whose fees are generally from 5 s. to 10 s. 6 d. the quarter, and some of them considerably higher.

Besides a considerable number of private schools, in which the Latin language is taught, a very elegant building has lately been erected for the public grammar school, in which the course of education is 4 years, and is conducted by 4 masters, who each carry on their classes the whole time, having equal salaries of L. 25 each for the three first years, and L. 35 for the fourth year. Each scholar pays 5 s. *per* quarter, besides a present at Candlemas; and for some years each of the classes has generally consisted of from 80 to 100 scholars. Great care has been taken in the choice of the masters, both as to their worth and professional abilities. To this, and to the great attention,  
which

which has for some years been bestowed on it by the Town-council, is the flourishing state of the school to be ascribed. A committee of gentlemen of the Council are chosen annually, who take the superintendance of it, and who, with the advice of the Professors of the University, settle the plan of reading, &c. in the different classes; and along with them the ministers, and other persons of learning visit the school frequently, without giving any previous notice. At these visitations, the scholars go through their different exercises, and the particular standing of each boy in the class is marked down in a book; and at the end of each season, when there is a public examination, before the Magistrates, the gentlemen of the college, and many of the inhabitants, prizes are distributed to the boys, not according to the situation in which they may be accidentally found at that time, but according to the average of their places at the different examinations through the year; and this practice has been found to have a very good effect, by keeping up the attention of both masters and scholars through the whole course of the season. Prizes are also given for good attendance, in order to form habits of attention, which may be useful to them in their after life, in whatever situation they may be placed.

#### IX. MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The AIR, though very healthy, is moist, when compared with the east coast of Scotland and England, but not so much as those places which lie nearer the Western Ocean, or as Lancashire and Cornwall. The average of rain, which has fallen in the city of Glasgow for 30 years, from 1761 to 1790 inclusive, is 29 inches  $\frac{6.5}{100}$  parts. The greatest quantity in any year during that period, was in the  
the

the year 1775, which was 43 inches  $\frac{9}{10}$ ; and the least quantity was in the year 1788, which was 19 inches  $\frac{43}{100}$  parts.

April 7. 1653. A most affecting and even elegant representation to the public, was made by the citizens of Glasgow, setting forth the distress occasioned by an accidental fire on the 17th June 1652, which had consumed one third part of their city, consisting of the dwellings of almost 1000 families. This is certified by Oliver Cromwell, General Lambert, and 22 other persons of rank, where the loss is estimated at L. 100,000\*.

The most remarkable FLOOD, that has been in the river, was on the 12th March 1782, when it rose about 20 feet above its usual level, by which all the lower part of the town was laid under water, and many of the inhabitants obliged to be carried out of their houses in boats. This flood was 18 inches higher than in 1712, at which time it was higher than had ever been remembered.

The GROUNDS in the neighbourhood are highly cultivated, but, from the great increase of inhabitants, owing to the numerous manufactures now established, the quantity of grain raised is not nearly sufficient for the supply of the inhabitants; and therefore they are almost always obliged to depend upon supplies from other parts, which they get by the river Clyde from Ireland, and by the great Canal from the eastern parts of the island.

There is great plenty of FREESTONE of different qualities, and of whin, in the neighbourhood; but no marble, limestone, slate, or granite, in any quantity, within some miles. There is also plenty of clays proper for making bricks, tiles, and the common kinds of pottery, but none of the finer kinds.—The fossil to which this city owes its greatest advantage is COAL, which is found in great abundance in  
the

\* *Vide Gibbon.*

the ground toward the east; in which there are five different strata, or seams, from 3 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, all of which are wrought at present to a very considerable extent. These seams have been wrought for many years, so that all near the city, at a moderate depth, has been dug out. Some of the pits are at present above 60 fathoms deep, and most of them are obliged to be wrought by the assistance of steam engines. The price of coals varies at the different pits, being from 2 s. 9 d. to 3 s. 3 d. *per* cart, of 12 cwt.; when delivered in any part of the city, from 3 s. 6 d. to 4 s. In some of these pits, there is a vein of iron stone of very good quality, of a whitish colour, which is used in the smelting furnaces in the neighbourhood. There is also in the till found in these pits, many impressions of fern and other plants, and shells of different kinds; and in the neighbourhood there are many fossil marine bodies, particularly different species of shells and entrochi.

The WATER, with which the city is in general supplied, is not of the best quality, as most of the springs contain selenite in greater or lesser proportion; and some of them contain iron, which is for the most part suspended by the carbonic acid. One spring, not far from the city, contains calcareous earth, which it deposits, in its course, on the vegetables, &c. forming therewith sundry incrustations. Towards the west part of the city, however, the water is much purer than towards the east; and there is in the Green, belonging to the community, a spring of water of the very best quality in the country. The quantity of it, however, is not sufficient to afford a supply to the whole inhabitants; and it lies so much below the level of the greatest part of the city, that it has prevented its being conducted into it. Many proposals have been made, for supplying the city with water from sources in the neighbourhood, but the quantity

quantity of spring water, to be found in any one place, has been thought too small to supply the wants of the inhabitants; besides, a very great expence must be incurred in conveying it into the city, and in preparing reservoirs for it, which has hitherto prevented this useful scheme being put in execution. Perhaps the only permanent sources, and the best supply in point of purity, would be from the river Clyde; but this would occasion it to be forced up by a steam engine, and a large reservoir to collect it in, in order to supply the pipes necessary for the different parts of the city; which would be such an expence as could not be gone into, without a probability of being reimbursed by a tax, which would not, perhaps, be an agreeable measure.

As to *the MANNERS of the PEOPLE* in general, they are, for the most part, industrious, and *still* economical. They are in general contented and happy in their situation. They grumble at taxes, and the high price of provisions; and some of the more ambitious wish for some more political consequence, than they at present enjoy, under the laws of the Scottish burghs; which they consider as confining the presentation of ministers, and the power of election and offices to a few, in exclusion of the rest, and these they wish to have put on a broader bottom. As they are getting rich, this desire will increase among the people; yet, notwithstanding, there is at present much difficulty to get proper persons, of the merchant rank, to accept of the offices of councillors and magistrates, almost every year furnishing instances of their paying a fine rather than serve.

Riches in Glasgow were formerly the portion of a few merchants. These, from the influence of the manufactures, are now diffusing themselves widely among a great number of manufacturers, mechanics, and artisans. This has made an alteration in the houses, dress, furniture, education and amusements of the people of Glasgow within a few years,

years, which is astonishing to the older inhabitants ; and has been followed by a proportional alteration in the manners, customs, and stile of living of the inhabitants. And as many of the merchants have of late years been engaging in manufactures and trade, the distance in point of rank and consequence, between merchants and tradesmen, has now become less conspicuous, than it was before the American war.

The strict severity and apparent sanctity of manners, formerly remarkable here, have yielded to the opposite extreme. There is now a great deal more industry on six days of the week, and a great deal more dissipation and licentiousness on the seventh. Great crimes were formerly very uncommon ; but now robberies, housebreakings, swindling, pick-pockets, pilferers, and consequently executions are become more common. These delinquents, as well as common prostitutes, are often little advanced above childhood ; and yet a healthy child of 7 or 8 years, or at most of 10 years of age, can now earn a very decent subsistence from some of the numerous manufactures established among us.

In an account of a city like Glasgow, a description of ANIMALS is not expected ; it may not be improper, however, to give a list of the different kinds of FISH, which are found in the river and frith of Clyde, though it is not given as complete, as many other kinds may still be found.

COMMON NAMES.	SYNONYMA LINNÆI.	
	CETE.	
	<i>Genera.</i>	<i>Species.</i>
Blunt headed Whale,	Phyfeter,	Microps.
Grampus, or Bucker,	Delphinus,	Orca.
Porpoise, or Pellock,	Ibid.	Phocœna.

AMPHIBII



## COMMON NAMES.

## SYNONIMA LINNÆI.

## AMPHIBII NANTES.

	<i>Genera.</i>	<i>Species.</i>
Lamprey,	Petromyson,	Fluviatilis.
Skate,	Raja,	Batis.
Thornback,	Ibid.	Clavata.
Basking Shark,	Squatus,	Maximus.
Piked Dog-fish,	Ibid.	Spinax.
Rough Dog-fish,	Ibid.	Catulus.
Smooth Dog-fish,	Ibid.	Mufterus.
Sturgeon,	Accipenser,	Sturio.
Lump Fish, or Sea Owl,	Cyclopesus,	Lumpus.
Pipe Fish,	Syngnathus,	Barbatus.

## APODES.

Eel,	Muræna,	Anguilla.
Sand Eel, or Launce,	Ammodytes,	Tobianus.

## JUGULARES.

Dragonet,	Callionymus,	Lyra.
Sordid Dragonet,	Ibid.	Dracunculus.
Weaver,	Trachinus,	Draco.
Cod,	Gadus,	Morhua.
Haddock.	Ibid.	Oglefinus.
Whiting Pout, or Gildee,	Ibid.	Barbatus.
Blinds, or Miller's Thumb,	Ibid.	Lufcus.
Seath,	Ibid.	Carbonarius.
Lythe,	Ibid.	Pollachius.
Whiting,	Ibid.	Mertangus.
		Ling,

COMMON NAMES.

SYNONYMA LINNÆI.

	<i>Genera.</i>	<i>Species.</i>
Ling,	Gadus,	Molva.
Five bearded Cod,	Idem,	Mustetus.
Spotted Blenny, or Clubbock,	Blennius,	Gunellus.
Viviparous Blenny,	Idem,	Viviparus.

THORACICI.

Sea Gudgeon,	Gotrus,	Niger.
Father Lather, or Sea Scorpion,	Cottus,	Scorpius.
Doree,	Zeus,	Faber.
Turbot,	Pleuronectes,	Maximus.
Plaife,	Idem,	Plateffa.
Flounder,	Idem,	Flefus.
Sole,	Idem,	Solea.
Wraffe, Old Wife, or Sow Fish,	Labrus,	Tinca.
Trimaculated Wraffe,	Idem,	Trimaculata.
Perch,	Perca,	Fluviatilis.
Stickleback,	Gasterosteus,	Aculeatus.
Ten spined Stickleback,	Idem,	Pungitius.
Fifteen spined ditto,	Idem,	Spinachia.
Mackarell,	Scomber,	Scomber.
Grey Gurnard,	Trigta,	Gurnardus.
Red Gurnard,	Idem,	Cuculus.

ABDOMINALES.

Loche,	Cobitis,	Barbatula.
Salmon,	Salmo,	Salar.

COMMON NAMES.	SYNONYMA LINNÆI.	
	<i>Genera.</i>	<i>Species</i>
Sea trout,	Salmo,	Trutta.
Trout,	Idem,	Fario.
Small, or Sparling,	Idem,	Epertanus.
Giviniad, or Powan,	Idem,	Lavaretus.
Par, or Samlet,	Idem,	Salmulus.
Pike,	Esox,	Lucius.
Mullet,	Mugil,	Cephalus.
Herring,	Clupea,	Harengus.
Roah, or Braire,	Cyprinus,	Rutilus.
Minnow,	Idem.	Phoximus.

Besides lobsters, crabs, oysters, muscles, cockles, and a very great variety of different kinds of shell fish.

N U M.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF THE GORBALS OF GLASGOW,

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM ANDERSON.*

---

*Name, Erection, Extent, &c.*

THE *Gorbals* of Glasgow was disjoined from the parish of Govan, and erected into a separate parish the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1771. The ancient name of the village was *Bridge-end*. Its modern name is the *Gorbals* of Glasgow. The village and burying ground only were at first erected into a new parish, containing about 12 or 14 acres. The lands of Rea, of Little Govan, and Polmadie, containing about 500 or 600 acres, and the barony of Gorbals, belonging to the city of Glasgow, the patrons of Hutchison's hospital, and the Trades-House of Glasgow, (containing upwards of 400 acres,) were afterwards, at the desire of the inhabitants of these lands, annexed to the parish of Gorbals by the presbytery of Glasgow.

*Climate,*

*Climate, Floods, and Prospects.*—The air is rather moist; the country flat, with a very small rise for some miles; the diseases are consumptions and fevers, tending to putrid. The tide rises some miles above the place, or at least forces back the water of the river; and the water itself sometimes tastes salt or brackish. The village and lands near the river are subject to inundations, but they are seldom great. There have been two remarkable floods, however, in the years 1712 and 1782. On the 12th March 1782, boats might have sailed through many streets in Gorbals, as they really did on that occasion in the Bridgegate of Glasgow. The whole ground appeared sea for a mile west, and about an eighth of a mile from the river, a small island appearing about the south end of the church, and the field west from it. The church was filled with water, except about 3 pews in the south end.—There are a variety of prospects from Gorbals; as Langred, (where the battle between Queen Mary and the Barons was fought, about two miles south), the Isle of Arran, Paisley, the windings of the river Clyde, Benlomond, which often appears with a snowy top when the season is advanced, and Tintock, from above Lanark.

*Rent, Soil, and Minerals.*—The ground rents high, being set for 19 years past, from L. 3 to L. 5 an acre; the soil is various, some of it a black strong loam, others a rich clay, and much of it, where the Gorbals is situated, sand some fathoms deep, little more than 9 inches soil on the surface. It abounds with coal. The Govan colliery has two excellent machines, the one for drawing up the water, the other a steam-engine for bringing up coals 100 fathoms, which saves a number of horse. There are 3 seams of coal, the undermost 14 feet thick. It is thought that there is such a quantity of coals in the colliery, (which belongs to Dunlop and Houston,) as  
would

would of itself serve the city of Glasgow for 100 years to come. Upwards of 200 men are employed about it.

*Church, &c.*—The parish belongs to the presbytery of Glasgow, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The stipend is exactly L 100, besides L. 6 for communion elements furnished twice a-year. There is neither manse nor glebe. The village and barony of Gorbals, in the year 1571, were feued by George Elphinston, merchant in Glasgow, from Archbishop Porterfield. There has been a burying-ground eastward from the south end of the old Bridge, called *the Leper's Church-yard*; and there is an old building, about the middle of the village, on the east side, called *the Chapel*. The lower part of it is at present occupied as the parish school; the two upper stories are used as a prison. On several places of the roof there are three capital letters, S. G. E. being the initials of *Sir George Elphinston*. The chapel of Gorbals was under the patronage of St Ninian, and the Leper's House was founded and endued by a lady, of the name of Campbell, about the year 1350. There was formerly a prebend of Polmadie\*, and there still remain some vestiges of religious houses in the neighbourhood. It is probable that the bishop or archbishop might have had his country seat there, as the ground is exceeding good, and the situation pleasant.

*Schools and Poor.*—The public school is good, and contains upwards of 100 scholars, the emoluments may be about L. 80 *per annum*. There are other five schools, at each of which there will be upwards of 30 scholars.—The poor are numerous, and are supported by the collections made

\* *Polmadie* seems to be of Latin derivation, from *Pomum Dei*, meaning *the Apple of God*, or fine apple; and it is still remarkable for good fruit.

made at the church door. There are also five society boxes amongst the different trades, which may give their poor about L. 100 a-year. The people in general are very charitable, and the parish would maintain their own poor, and prevent begging, were it not some of the poor people who lodge for a penny a-night, wandering beggars, who hang about the avenues to the city, and give out that they live in the Gorbals.

*Population.*—The village, it is said, about the beginning of this century, consisted only of a few thatched houses on each side of the great road from the south end of the old bridge. These were mostly possessed by maltmen, who made malt and brewed ale. In the year 1730 it was much increased, the intermediate spaces betwixt the old houses being filled up with houses occupied by weavers. In the 1732, the present church was built, as a Chapel of Ease to Govan. In the year 1748, the greatest part of the village was burnt, after which it rapidly increased. The houses built were good, some of them consisting of 2, and others of 3 stories and garrets. In 1771, the village was computed to contain 3000 persons, besides 500 more connected *quoad sacra*. The village at present consists of upwards of 5000 souls, besides about 800 who are joined *quoad sacra*. Within three years, it is expected, the number will be doubled, and in 20 years a new Glasgow will probably be raised on the south side of the Clyde. It is impossible to ascertain either the births or burials precisely, as the inhabitants of Glasgow both baptise and bury in the Gorbals, and those of Gorbals in the city. There are at least above 200 baptisms in the year. The people are industrious; there are several reputable manufacturers, and many good operative weavers; there are 556 looms, besides a number of gunsmiths, nailers, shoemakers, tailors,

tailors, wrights, cotton spinners, &c.—There are 60 public houses, which hurt the morals of the people not a little. Many of the inhabitants live to a great age. There are several of 70, 80, and 90 ; some have been known to live to 100 and 104.

*Improvements.*—The barony of Gorbals is begun to be feued. There are plans for new streets on the east and west of the old village, which, at a moderate computation, will contain upwards of 50,000 inhabitants. The feuing goes on briskly ; there are upwards of 120 steadings already feued, and begun to build on.



## NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF NEW PORT-GLASGOW,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN FORREST.*

---

*Name and Erection.*

NEW Port-Glasgow is a modern parish. The ancient name of the place, which was only a small village, was *Newark*, so called from a gentleman's seat of that name, which lay contiguous to it. It was formerly a part of the parish of Kilmalcolm; but the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow having, in the year 1668, sued about 11 acres of land adjoining to the old village, upon which they erected an harbour for the accommodation of their shipping; and foreseeing that it was likely soon to become a populous place, and, perhaps, as an encouragement to its more speedy population, they applied, with the concurrence of all concerned, to the Lords of Plantation of Kirks, and got it,

it, together with a few farms in its immediate vicinity, erected into a separate parish in the year 1695, by the name of *New Port-Glasgow*, *i. e.* the new port of Glasgow, by which name it has been invariably known ever since.

*Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*—This parish is situated within the bounds of the presbytery of Paisley, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is nearly an English mile square.—The land in this parish is partly flat and partly mountainous. Along the coast, and for about 130 yards back, it is nearly a dead level, little higher than the high water mark. This flat part, except that on which the town stands, is at present entirely converted into garden ground, belonging to the inhabitants, who sued it from the proprietor of the lands in the parish; and although the soil was originally barren, and in some places very shallow, yet it is astonishing what happy effects cultivation has produced; all kinds of pot herbs and common fruits, both small and big, being now raised here, of the richest quality, and in the greatest abundance. Immediately behind the flat part of the parish, there are mountains considerably steep and high, mostly of a poor soil, a small part of which is in tillage, and the rest in pasture.

*Climate, &c.*—The air of the parish is moist, owing, it is supposed, to its vicinity to the river Clyde, to the many lochs, which lie between the mountains on the opposite coast of Argyleshire, and to the peninsular form of this west country in general. Upon a comparison, between the rope-work books of this place and those of Glasgow, when that branch of manufacture was carried on in the open air, it has been found, that the inhabitants of the former place have, at an average, about 14 days more rain in the year, than those of the latter. Notwithstanding this, New Port-

Glasgow is a very healthy place. It has no distempers peculiar to it, and it has frequently been remarked, that the wetter the weather is, the healthier the inhabitants are.

*Coast.*—The shore, as far as the parish extends, is flat and sandy, with some loose stones scattered here and there, except the spot opposite to the old house or castle of Newark, which stands upon a prominent part of the land; where the shore, for about 150 yards, is very steep, being almost upon the brink of the deepest part of the river, or *the Channel*, as they call it. The common Sea-weed is cast ashore in this parish; and though the water, in which it grows, be only brackish, or half salt and half fresh, yet it is said to be very good manure, at least, for one crop. The farmers here, however, pay little attention to it. This neglect seems to be owing to two circumstances; the one is, that the farmers depend chiefly upon the produce of their cows for the payment of their rents; and the other is, that all the farms are situated in the mountainous part of the parish, which renders access to them, from the shore with carriages, very difficult and expensive.

*River, Fish, and Birds.*—The river Clyde, opposite to this parish, is supposed to be about two miles broad, but it is only a small part of it that is navigable by vessels of burden. This part, commonly called *the Channel*, lies along the New Port-Glasgow shore, is about 200 yards broad at an average, and is every where so deep at high water, that the largest vessels, which enter the frith of Clyde, can easily be moored in the harbour, without discharging any part of their cargo. The tide rises here about 9 feet at an average. There are some small cod and haddocks in the river, opposite to this parish, but they are not in such quantities as to render it worth any one's while to make a trade of fishing.

The

The boys frequently catch them for their amusement. There are also occasional visits of the herrings. These visits, however, are rare, having happened only thrice during the present century, *viz.* in the years 1718, 1753, and 1786, continuing commonly two or three seasons at each visit. No migratory birds are seen on this coast, except those which are common to the whole island, unless some sea-fowls of the duck kind are to be reckoned among the number. When there happens to be a hard frost in the depth of winter, these never fail to visit this part of the river in immense flocks. Thousands, nay millions of them have been seen at once; but when the frost breaks, they instantly disappear, and are seen no more till the next frost comes. As the two last winters have been very mild, there have been few or none of these visitors.

*Population.*—About the time that New Port-Glasgow was erected into a parish, the number of its inhabitants must have been small. Though the writer of this paper be not possessed of materials, sufficient to enable him to ascertain, with precision, what that number was, yet, from traditional report, as well as from an old register of births and marriages, now in his hands, it would seem, that, before the commencement of the present century, the number of inhabitants did not exceed 350, or 400 at most. From the year 1700 it gradually increased, till the year 1718, when the present parish kirk was built. At this last period, the number of inhabitants could scarcely have amounted to 800, as the kirk can hardly contain that number. From the year 1718 it had, in like manner, gradually increased till the year 1775, when the present incumbent was ordained. If it be true, as is generally understood, that the population of a parish may be known with sufficient accuracy, by multiplying the number of births by 26, the state of  
the

the population of this parish, in some of the intermediate years, must have been, according to the register of births, as follows :

Years.	Families.	Souls.
In 1730	365	1426
1740	400	1560
1760	666	2600

From the year 1775, to the year 1783, the population of this parish was stationary. The cause of this was undoubtedly the American war. There is not, perhaps, a port in Britain, upon which that event had a more immediate influence, than upon this port. In consequence of it, together with some incidental circumstances, (the enumeration of which does not belong to the writer of this paper), Glasgow, upon which the people here chiefly depended hitherto, became no longer a commercial, but a manufacturing city, and consequently was no longer the immediate source of wealth to them; and their own internal vigour not being yet sufficiently roused for their support, their number could not increase, as it had done for near a century before; but must have inevitably taken a contrary direction in due time, if, during the war, and especially about the conclusion of it, a spirit of enterprise had not happily seized some of the inhabitants; who have embarked in trade upon their own bottom, to such an extent, as not only to keep their number from decreasing, but even to make it resume, though not with equal rapidity, its former progress.

From different lists of the inhabitants, taken between the years 1775 and 1783, it appears, that the population of  
the

the parish, including the few families which live in the country, had stood, during that period, as follows :

Families,	—	—	—	995
Communicants, or above 16 or 17 years of age,				2235
Not communicants, or under 16 or 17 years of age,				1560
Seceders,	—	—	—	99
Souls,	—	—	—	3894

From a list taken between the years 1786 and 1790, it appears, that the population of this parish, at present, is,

Families,	—	—	—	1032
Communicants,	—	—	—	2245
Not communicants,				1671
Seceders,	—	—	—	120
Souls,	—	—	—	4036

In regard to the population in 1755, the number, as returned to Dr Webster, was,

Whence, there is evidently an increase of 2341

The lists, from which the above account is taken, do not enable the writer to say precisely, what may be the proportion of males and females in the parish; but, from the register of baptisms, it would seem, that they are nearly equal. There are seven farms in the parish, some of them very small, containing 7 families and 40 souls.

The annual average of births, marriages and deaths, as appears from the registers, at present, are,

	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
Males,	74	37	69
Females,	73		
	} 147		

Though

Though this last sum, multiplied by 36, does not nearly amount to the present number of inhabitants in the parish, yet this circumstance does not contradict the mode of calculation proposed by Sir John Sinclair, in a note subjoined to his queries addressed to the clergy of Scotland, and that for two obvious reasons: The one is, that many of the inhabitants of this parish are either lost or die at sea, or settle abroad; and the other is, that, as many of the inhabitants came to this place at first from the neighbouring parishes, they chuse that, when they die, their bones should rest in the same spot, where their forefathers rested before them; in either of which cases, their deaths are not inserted in the public registers of the parish. The great disproportion, between the annual births and burials, is to be accounted for in the same way: The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is as 1 to  $27\frac{4}{10}$ ; between the annual marriages and the whole population, is as 1 to 109; between the annual burials and the whole population is as 1 to  $58\frac{1}{2}$ . Each marriage produces, at an average, about 3 children. Each family consists, at an average, of near  $3\frac{3}{4}$  souls.

*Productions.*—From what has been said above, respecting the extent, the soil, and the population of this parish, it will readily appear, that its productions are, by no means, equal to the support of its inhabitants. It is true, the flat part of the parish, which is entirely converted into garden ground, except that on which the town stands, is in a state of the highest cultivation, and produces the richest crops. All kinds of vegetables, belonging to a kitchen garden, are raised here in the greatest abundance. The gardens are no less remarkable for producing common fruits, both big and small; and particularly that species of plumbs commonly called *magnum bonum*; for all which the public gardeners

ers find a ready market in the neighbouring towns and villages.

But as for the mountainous part of the parish, by far the largest proportion of it in point of territory, it contains only the 7 poor farms already mentioned, still nearly in a state of nature; and, from the steepness of their situation, as well as the barrenness of their soil, likely to continue so for ever. The productions of the arable part of these farms are little more grain, than what is sufficient to support the farmer's own families, together with some potatoes; for which, after supplying themselves, they find a ready market in the town. It is upon the produce of their cows, as was observed above, that the farmers chiefly depend for the payment of their rents.

From this account of things, it is evident, that the parish does not supply itself with provisions, no not for a single week in the year. The sole dependence of the inhabitants, for provisions of every kind, is on the neighbouring parishes, (as far as their fertility, compared with the general state of population in the country, will admit;) and on Dumfries-shire, from which considerable quantities of oats and oat-meal are imported; but chiefly on Ireland, from which, not only grain and meal, but almost every other article of provision is brought to this place.

*Proprietors.*—In the parish of New Port-Glasgow, there is only one manour, or barony of lands, or rather only a small part of one, (the greatest part of it lying in the neighbouring parish of Kilmalcolm), and that is the estate of Finlayston-Maxwell. At the time that the magistrates and council of Glasgow made their purchase, for the purpose of erecting a harbour, this estate was in the possession of a Sir Patrick Maxwell of Newark; but, at present, it belongs to William Hamilton, Esq; of Withaw. The man-  
sion



sion house of the estate lies contiguous to this town, close by the shore. From an inscription on one corner of it, it would seem, that this house was built in the year 1599. It is a fortified building, pretty large, with a castle or tower at one end of it, which seems to be of an older date than the rest of the house. In the construction of this building, one can easily read the spirit of the times. Here is the great hall, in which the Baron convened his vassals, and issued forth his mandates to them; here too are painted, or rather daubed, the arms of all the great families with which he was connected, either by the ties of blood or friendship; and here stands the great gate with the iron door, which was triple bolted every night, that he might not be surpris'd before the morn by some other chieftain, with whom he might have a deadly feud. At present, however, this ancient fabric is in ruins, and has not been inhabited since the beginning of the century. That part of the estate, which lies within the limits of this parish, comprehends the 7 farms already mentioned, and draws about L. 200 Sterling of yearly rent.

*Town.*—Though the name of the parish be New Port-Glasgow, that of the town is *New Port-Glasgow*, (vulgarly Port-Glasgow,) and *Newark*. The occasion of this double name is, that one part of the town, indeed by far the greatest part of it, stands upon the piece of ground which was feued by the city of Glasgow, and to which they gave a name, taken from the purpose to which it was applied; and that another part of it is the original village, but now considerably enlarged, which was standing there when that feu was made. These two parts are adjoining, and form one town; the proprietors of houses in the former being vassals of the city of Glasgow, and those in the latter vassals of the proprietor of the estate of  
Finlayston

Finlayston-Maxwell.—Before the year 1775, the city of Glasgow, and the proprietor of the lands of Finlayston-Maxwell, exercised the same jurisdiction over their respective parts of the town, that a liege Lord exercises over his vassals. But at this period, the feuers of Port-Glasgow and Newark, with the concurrence of their immediate superiors, applied to Parliament, and got themselves erected into a burgh of barony, with a council of 13 persons, called trustees, appointed to regulate and manage the public police of the place. These trustees are feuers possessed of, at least, L. 10 Sterling a-year of heritable property within the town. They were elected for the first time by a general poll of all the feuers, and ever after are elected by themselves; four of them being disqualified yearly by a plurality of votes, and four others, who had not been in the council for three years before, being chosen to fill up the vacant places. Of these trustees, two are bailies; the one, called the oldest bailie, is chosen annually by the Town-council of Glasgow, and the other, called the youngest bailie, is chosen annually by the trustees themselves, “which two bailies, (says the act of Parliament), or either of them, are authorized, empowered, and required to administer justice, and to exercise all the power and authority, by the laws of Scotland, committed to the bailies of a burgh of barony.”

*Revenue.*—The public revenue of the town amounts to about L. 500 Sterling a-year. It arises chiefly from a tax of L. 2½ Sterling *per cent.* upon house rents; from another tax of two pennies Scotch upon every pint of ale, either brewed in the town or brought into it; from the rent of the kirk seats and flesh market, and from the harbour dues. This revenue is expended in paying the minister's stipends, and the different schoolmasters salaries; in keep-

ing the streets and quays in repair, and in answering other public purposes, which the good of the community may require.

*Shipping and Trade.*—The shipping belonging to this port, as taken from the custom-house books, at present, is,

	Vessels.		Tons.
Employed in foreign trade,	91	measuring	11273
— in coasting trade,	18		692
— in the herring fishery,	16		795
Total,	125		12760

It is to be observed, however, that though the above shipping belongs to this port, yet it is not all the actual property of the merchants who reside in the port. Some of the vessels, particularly those employed in foreign trade, are either wholly or in part the property of some houses in Glasgow. It is also to be observed, that the trade of the port is, by no means, carried on only by the vessels belonging to it. From the custom-house books, it appears, that the vessels to and from the port, in the year 1790, were,

	Vessels.		Tons.
Inward	British, 205	measuring	19776
	Foreign, 13		2469
Outward	British, 221		22466
	Foreign, 11		1849
Total,	450		46560

The foreign imports of this port consist chiefly of tobacco, sugar, rum, cotton, mahogany, logwood and staves, together with some timber, iron and hemp, from the Baltic;

tic; and the exports are such merchant goods as suit the American and West India markets. The coasters are chiefly employed in carrying coals and merchant goods upon the river, and in bringing grain and other provisions from Dumfries-shire and Ireland.—The head custom-house for the trade of Clyde is stationed here. The officers employed in it, having the King's commission, or rather a treasury-warrant, are, a collector, a comptroller, a land-surveyor, a tide-surveyor, a weigher, 6 land-waiters, 17 tide-waiters, and 6 boat-men.

*Church.*—The Magistrates and Council of Glasgow are the patrons of the parish, by purchase from the Earl of Glencairn, patron of the parish of Kilmalcolm, from which this parish was disjoined. It is said, that the old feuers of Port-Glasgow, *i. e.* the proprietors of the feus which existed at the time of the erection, have a joint right with the Town-Council of Glasgow to the patronage; but this claim has never been legally ascertained. Certain it is, that the present incumbent holds the benefice by a presentation from the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow only. The living is L. 100 Sterling, with L. 10 Sterling for a house, and L. 2 Sterling for a yard *per annum*, without either manse or glebe.

As the parish kirk bears no proportion to the number of the inhabitants, such of them as could not be accommodated with seats, applied to the presbytery of Paisley, about the year 1767, for liberty to employ an assistant preacher in communion with the Established Church, to dispense the ordinances of religion to them. For several years, this assistant officiated in the house which was the first place of public worship in the town, and which is now occupied by a sail-maker. But in the year 1774, the flock of this assistant, or the chapel-people, as they are called,

called, built an elegant house of worship, in the suburbs of the town, sufficient to contain about 1800 people, in which they are accommodated, for the purposes of public worship, in a stile superior to most kirks in Scotland. The annual revenue of this chapel, arising from the rents of the seats, amounts to L. 140 Sterling; and the living of the minister is L. 100 *per annum*.

*Schools and Poor.*—There are three public schools in this town, viz. a Grammar, a Writing and Arithmetic, and an English school. The Grammar schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scotch, and that of the other two is L. 10 Sterling each *per annum*. The school wages are, for teaching Latin, 5 s.; for teaching Writing and Arithmetic, 5 s.; and for teaching English, 3 s. *per quarter*. The number of scholars, is, at an average, about 50 at each school.—Perhaps in no parish of Scotland are the poor more liberally supplied than in this. The roll of stated pensioners, at present, amounts to 140. The sum allotted to them is from 6 d. to 3 s. *per week* each, according to their circumstances. Besides, such persons as are reduced to indigence, from any transient cause, partake of the charity of this place, in proportion to their necessities, so long as that cause continues to operate. The power of fixing the sum given to each pensioner, whether stated or occasional, is lodged in the kirk-session, under the controul of a committee of the heritors or feuers. The funds, from which the poor are supported, arise from the collections at the parish kirk and chapel; from money given for proclamation of marriage banns; from fines for clandestine or irregular marriages; from the interest of L. 290 Sterling, which the heritors hold upon a bill to the session, and from an assessment of the inhabitants. In the year 1790, the  
sum

sum given to the poor of this parish amounted to L. 297 Sterling.

*Character.*—The better sort of people here are sober, industrious, and charitable. At all times they are attentive to the interests of the poor. They were peculiarly so in the years 1782 and 1783. In that period of extraordinary dearth and scarcity, they imported large quantities of meal, and sold it to the poor at a reduced price, cheerfully taking the loss sustained upon themselves; and some of them generously advanced considerable sums, free of interest, to carry on this humane and benevolent trade. The inferior classes of inhabitants are of a different complexion; sobriety and industry are certainly not their characteristics; though, to this general assertion, there are many exceptions. It is almost incredible what quantities of spirituous liquors, and especially of the worst species of whisky, are consumed in this town; and it is painful to add, but truth requires it, that not a little of it is consumed by women.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the channel of the river, opposite to the castle of Newark, several pieces of wreck have at different times, been discovered. The tradition is, and, as far back as the memory of the oldest inhabitant, now living, reaches, has been, that when the Spanish Armada was defeated and dispersed by the English, in the year 1588, and some of the Spanish ships of war were seen hovering off the west coast of Scotland, either one or more vessels were ordered to be sunk in this part of the river, (whether by public authority or not, the tradition does not say,) to prevent those ships of war, if they should attempt it, from surprising the castle of Dunbarton, which is about 4 miles above this place.—The magnificence of the prospect, from the hill behind the town, and even from the quays, is a natural curiosity, which deserves

ferves notice. Immediately before you is the river Clyde, having all the appearance of a fresh water lake, as the outlet to the sea is not visible, with numbers of large and small vessels sailing upon it. Next to this, the opposite coast of Dunbarton and Argyle shires, abounding in gentlemen's seats, meets the eye; and the prospect is terminated by the western range of the Grampian mountains, at unequal distances, and so ragged and craggy on the tops, that, by way of contradiction, they are known here by the emphatical name of *the Duke of Argyle's Bowling Green*.—In this town there are no fewer than 81 houses which have a licence for selling ale and spirituous liquors, besides several others which deal clandestinely in these articles without any licence at all. This is no very favourable symptom of the sobriety of the place, when so many venders of ale and spirits can make a living by their trade.

The old Scotch dialect is spoken in this town, especially by the common people, and is pronounced by many of them with a good deal of the Gaelic accent, owing, it is supposed, to their intercourse with Highlanders, of whom great numbers resort occasionally to this place, and not a few settle in it.

N U M B E R XL.

TOWN AND PARISH OF GREENOCK,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

*By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD REID, late Minister of  
that Parish, now Minister of MAUGHLINE.*

---

I.

OLD PARISH OF GREENOCK.

*Erection, Name, Situation, and Extent.*

ON the joint application of the proprietors, in the year 1636, to the Lords of Commission for Plantation of Kirks, valuation of Teinds, &c. certain lands were disjoined from Innerkip and Houston, and erected into a parish, which, from the lands of greatest extent and valuation, was named Greenock \*. This name is doubtless derived from the

\* The name is commonly said to be made up of the words *Green* and *Oak*. But this is a mere quibble. What sort of an oak is *Gourock?* and what *Garvock?* These are both in the neighbourhood.



the Gaelic *Grianeg*, signifying, according to Gaelic etymologists, *the Sunny Bay*, or, *the Bay of the Sun*.—This parish is situated in the N. W. part of the county of Renfrew, within the bounds of the presbytery of Paisley, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, having the magnificent and picturesque frith of Clyde on the north. Indented by several convenient bays, the chief of which is the united bay of Greenock and Crawfurd's dike, it stretches along the frith about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  English miles; to the south it extends considerably farther, representing altogether the shape of a capital D, of which the curvatur has been too far protracted.

*Hills, Surface, Fuel, &c.*—Excepting a strip of level ground of different breadths, along the shore, the parish of Greenock is hilly. To a spectator from Garval, a point of land on the east side of the bay above mentioned, a range of hills appear rising at Finlayston, the seat of the Earls of Glencairn, opposite to the Rock of Dumbarton, Louch, and Port-Glasgow; thence they recede southward, heightening as they recede, till, at the distance of about 2 miles S. E. from the town of Greenock\*, having attained the height of almost 800 feet above the level of the sea, they again decline, bending to the bay of Gourrock, where they terminate; thus forming to the eye a sweep of a large circle, including, with the frith, a great extent of surface, very agreeably diversified, except by wood, which is scarce. Beyond the hills seen from the shore, there are others at different distances, some 100 feet higher, and one at least 200, with here and there intervening swamps and moſſes, affording the country people abundance of peat for fuel to themselves, and for sale in the neighbouring towns and villages. From the farthest hills, the ground declines to the  
river

\* The summit of the hills is here intended.

river *Grife*, which, rising in the western confines of the district of Kilmalcolm, runs through the southern part of the parish of Greenock; and, increasing as it flows, by numberless rivulets from the high grounds on both sides, glides, in a winding direction, through a long strath or valley, to which it gives name, and falls into the *Black Cart*, near Paisley.—Along the coast, except where it has been cleared by industry, it is shelvy, rough, and much incumbered with large stones. These stones, however, are not unproductive; they yield annually a luxuriant crop of sea weed\*, which, though deemed inferior in quality to drifted ware, the neighbouring farmers cut, especially in the beginning of May, and spread on the grounds they are preparing for barley, with great advantage to the crop.

*Soil*.—The soil, close upon the shore, is, in general, very light, sandy, and full of gravel, requiring frequent showers to produce tolerable pasture. After rest, however, and the aid of a little manure in favourable seasons, sea ware, for instance, of which from time to time, by strong westerly and northerly gales, there is no small quantity thrown on the shore, it produces very good crops of oats and barley; and, (which annually becomes a greater object of culture), large quantities of potatoes of the best quality †. In the ascent, to a considerable distance from the flat ground on the shore, there occur soils of various kinds, earth, clay, till, &c. Farther up, and towards the summit of the hills seen

VOL. V.

4 B

from

\* It is surprising to observe, how soon a bare stone, rolled from the land into the sea, is covered with this vegetable.

† The culture of potatoes in the neighbourhood of towns, by sedentary mechanics, contributes greatly to their health. When potatoes, (which is often the case at Greenock), are sold at 6 d. a peck, and good fresh herrings at 7 or 8 a penny; what a blessing to poor families!

from the shore, the soil for the most part is thin, in some places mossy; the bare rocks here and there appearing. On the other side of these hills, except a few cultivated spots in the descent to and on the banks of Grife, heath, commonly tall, and a coarse benty grass prevail.

*Minerals.*—With respect to fossils, the parish of Greenock, as far as has been hitherto discovered, affords none that are any way remarkable. Along the coast, freestone, mostly of a red colour, and sometimes beautifully variegated with regular spots of a light gray colour, occasionally intermixed with a great variety of what is called sea pebble, of different shapes and hues, is most common. The strata of this stone on the shore, and a great way above it, as if the vaults of caverns below them had some time failed, are very irregular, scarcely ever horizontal, but dipping or inclining, at different angles in every direction, and chiefly towards the south. Limestone, though much needed for building, and improvement of coarse stiff grounds, has only been of late discovered, and but in small quantities; nor is it of the best quality, being mixed with a considerable proportion of sand. Farther search, it is to be hoped, may be rewarded with better success. In the steep banks of some of the numerous rivulets from the hills, and in a thick bed of schistus, there appears a thin seam of it, divided into pieces about the size of a man's head, and of excellent quality. These, as they fall, (for the expence of ground and labour, would far exceed their value,) are carefully collected, and used with good effect by the attentive farmer.

Whether it would be advisable to make trial for coal in any part of the parish, those skilled in that business will be best able to determine. From the vast quantity used in

• Greenock

Greenock and Port-Glasgow, and annually exported \* by the merchants of both places, a mass of that necessary commodity would, it is evident, be a source of great wealth to the proprietor, and a very great benefit to the inhabitants of these towns, and the places adjacent. In digging pretty deep wells, &c. there have occurred strata of earth, clay mixed with shells, sea sand, gravel, freestone, whin, &c. but no appearance hitherto of that valuable fossil. The hills, for the most part, seem to be a mass of whin, very compact and solid in some parts; in others, especially toward their summits, chinky and friable. In not a few places, the rocks seem once to have been in a state of fusion, and loose stones scattered here and there, exhibit so much the appearance of the cinders of a smithy furnace, that there can be little doubt of their having undergone, some time or other, the action of fire. What minerals the Greenock hills may contain, is not known. The deep chasms made in them by sundry rivulets, which, after heavy rains, descend in torrents, have been carefully examined. In the drought of summer, the loose stones, pebbles, and sand, in the channel of these streams, have been examined by the writer of this sketch; but excepting ironstone of a poor quality, which is frequently found, and a little copper rarely in freestone, no metallic substance has been hitherto discovered.

*Prospects.*—From the brows of the hills viewed from the town of Greenock, were the dreary sombre heath extirpated by culture, or hidden by thriving plantations, the landscape, which abounds in other beauties, would be very agreeable. That trees would grow in such a situation, is little to be doubted. Young plants of the Scotch fir, (from seeds  
dropt

\* There were exported from Greenock last year, (1791,) 4034 chalders of coals, Winchester measure.

dropt probably by birds,) have been found by the writer of this sketch, in great vigour on the very tops of these hills \* ; near which, as is abundantly evident from their remaining roots and trunks, which are now and then dug up in mosses, a variety of large trees, principally oak, have formerly grown.

Were the high grounds in the parish, that are seen from the town, rendered more accessible, which, at some expence, they certainly might be, by roads conducted in a winding line †, the lands adjoining to, and at a considerable distance from so flourishing a sea-port, might, doubtless, in a short time, be greatly beautified and improved, when we consider the natural inclination which town's people, as they become wealthy, discover to have houses, gardens, and little patches of ground in the country. Though the town, as may afterward be noticed more particularly, is far from being unhealthy, yet people, whose circumstances can afford it, know how desirable the still more salutary air of the country is. Along the skirts of the hills there are many eligible situations, for those who have a relish for the beauty and magnificence of nature. Below them, the towns of Greenock and Port-Glasgow, with their convenient harbours and *woods*, so to speak, of masts : By wind and tide, and vessels outward and inward bound, and the small craft to and from Glasgow and the great canal, the prospect of the frith, branching into the Gairloch, Lochlung, and Kelly Loch, is ever varying. On the opposite side of the frith, are in view the parishes of West Kilpatrick, Dunbarton with its rock and castle, Cardross, Rew,

\* They are never suffered to remain long, being pulled up and carried away by passengers.

† It is little to the honour of modern improvement, that many of our public roads are still conducted in *straight lines*, over hills and rising grounds ; witness the road now to be changed between Port-Glasgow and Crosshill.

Rew, and the peninsular parish of Roseneath; on the south-east part of which is a castle of the Dukes of Argyle, with flourishing plantations.

In ascending the Greenock hills, the prospect is still varied and extended. From Corlic, the highest ground in the parish, may be seen in a clear day, besides that of Renfrew, part of the counties of Bute, Arran, and Argyle; with the western part of the Scotch Alps, the Grampian mountains of Perth, Stirling, Clydesdale, Lanark, and Ayr. From this height, people, who are fond of the varying scenery of nature, will sometimes observe the smooth surface of the frith begin to be ruffled by the wind, which here and there seems to pour down upon it, moving the water in all directions. At other times, they will mark the shadow of thick stationary clouds, which appear as so many islands; and at times a light fleecy vapour, frequently mentioned in Gaelic poetry, suspended over, or by a gentle breeze, slowly moving in the direction of the Clyde. Sometimes, though rarely, during an intense frost, a very thick fog stretches from beyond Glasgow far below Greenock. Keeping a level, it covers the hollows on both sides of the frith. While people in the low grounds, all bespattered with hoar frost, pass a dark and otherwise disagreeable day, a serene sky may be enjoyed on the Greenock hills, without the least speck of cloud; as the fog seldom rises more than 400 or 500 feet above the level of the sea. The surface of the vast mass of vapour on which you look down, is so exactly defined, and seems so compact and firm, that people might think they could, from the brow of the hill, step upon it, and safely walk over to the hills on the opposite side of the river. These waves of vapour exhibit the swelling of the waves of the sea without their motion; and, according to their situation, form, and density, are variously tinged with the rays of the sun; while a breath of wind now and then detaching the

top of a wave, spreads it on the azure sky, to assume whatever shapes the fancy of the beholder leads him to suppose.

*Rivulets.*—In their descent from the hills, some rivulets form very fine cascades, appearing from the shore like wreaths of snow; the chief of them, (behind which, from the scooping of the rock, one may easily walk,) bears the name of WALLACE, our brave and disinterested patriot\*. These rivulets are at last collected into four streams, two of which are in many respects serviceable to the town of Greenock.

*Animals.*—The uncultivated part of the parish affords pasture for black cattle and sheep †, and abounds with the different sorts of game common in this part of the country. In severe and continued frosts, vast flocks of wild ducks repair to the frith for their subsistence, and in snow, sometimes large flights of rooks frequent the shore. The food of the former is long grass, for which they dive to a considerable depth; of the latter, *wilks* or periwinkles, which, having raised about 50 feet, they let fall among stones, stooping instantly after their prey. If the shell is not broke, they lift it again and again. Their toil is amazing, and their gain very small, when there is as much wind as carries the wilk out of its perpendicular direction. Frauds in this business, as well as in that of building their nests, are attempted

\* How many monuments, far more durable than statues or columns, has grateful posterity bestowed throughout Scotland, on this distinguished friend of liberty! In this part of the country, steep precipices, high falls of water, huge rocks, and Roman stations and encampments, not unfrequently bear his name.

† Much wool, and not a few sheep, might be annually saved, would farmers bestow a day or two in the spring, in cutting or extirpating brambles.

attempted among them, which, when discovered, meet with instant and condign punishment.

*Natural Curiosities.*—To this, and other hints of natural curiosities in the parish, given above, several others might be added. From the scooping of the rocks, for instance, a good way above high water mark, the fine polish of the gravel, and shells of the same kind with those which are at this time found on the shore, it is evident, that the sea has greatly receded. The contexture of sea-pebbles \*, as they are called, which are scattered on some parts of the shore, and some pretty large blocks of greyish whin, scarcely yielding to any force but that of gunpowder, and in texture perfectly resembling Shakespeare's 'unwedgeable and gnarled oak,' it will not be easy to account for, on the principles of any of those theories of the earth, which in succession have been, with too much confidence, ushered into the world. Though some of the springs, with which the Greenock hills abound, are, in some degree, impregnated with iron, in general they emit the purest water †, which is collected into sundry reservoirs, and thence conducted, in leaden pipes, to the different parts of the town. In widening the crevices of the rocks, from which the water issues, one is surprised to observe, sometimes ten or a dozen frogs of different sizes, and of a dark colour, forced into day by the increased stream. Whether they were natives of the place from whence they came, entered in their tadpole state, or soon after, it is certain, that if the opening had not been enlarged, they could not have got out; and it is remarkable, a circumstance on which one might moralise, that all of them make the utmost effort to return to their cold dark dungeon.

*Antiquities.*

\* The regular figure which some of these have assumed from attrition, are sometimes very remarkable.

† The fine verdure below these springs, shews, that pasture, as has often been hinted, may be meliorated by making water run over it.



*Antiquities.*—In the parish of Greenock, unless a person were to hazard a conjecture about some inches of stones, which occur in the most desert parts of it, there are no antiquities. Half way between the towns of Greenock and Port-Glasgow \*, is *Capellow*, where, (according to tradition, favoured by the name of the place, and several ruinous *yares*, as they are termed,) some Dutch fishers, long ago resided. About a quarter of a mile south-west of Capellow, may be seen the remains of the old castle of Greenock, in demolishing which, time, as is too common in like cases throughout Scotland, has got very great assistance †.

*Heritors, Stipend, and Rent.*—Of the greatest part of the parish, Shaw Stuart, Esq; of Greenock, patron of the kirk, is proprietor. The other heritors are Crawford of Cartsburn, and Hamilton of Garvock.—The stipend of the minister, exclusive of the glebe and manse lately built, is between L. 90 and L. 100. The present incumbent is the ninth minister of this parish since the Reformation.

	Scotch.
The valuation of the lands of Greenock is, L. 1933	6 8
————— of Crawfordsburn,	223 6 8
————— of Garvock, partly in the parish of Innerkip,	- - 129 2 0

The real rent of the two parishes of Greenock, it would not be easy to ascertain. In the town, and at some distance from the quays, ground has been sold at the rate of L. 58 Sterling *per* fall.

II.

\* Along the public road between the two towns, there is a most convenient foot path.

† On a considerable eminence, south of the town and close upon it, stands the present mansion-house of Greenock. A great part of it is modern, no part of it very old. It is a large house. Its *policy*, (as they call it,) or pleasure ground, has been extensive, but has fallen into decay.

## II.

## NEW PARISH,

OR,

## TOWN OF GREENOCK.

*Situation, Extent, and Erection.*

ON the west side of the united bay of Greenock and Crawfurdsdike, formerly called the *Bay of St Lawrence*, from a chapel near it, dedicated to that faint, and about half way between the east and west boundaries of the parish, is situated the town of Greenock. In the beginning of the present century, it consisted of a row of houses, covered with thatch, along the bay, and had no harbour whatever for vessels. Now, with its suburbs, and the village of Crawfurdsdike, adjoining to it on the east, Greenock may be said to extend along the frith something more than an English mile. Its greatest breadth is scarcely an eighth of a mile. A few years previous to the year 1745, a new parish was erected in Greenock, with consent of Sir John Shaw, who made over the right of patronage to the heritors and elders.

*Population.*—From the best calculation that can now be made of the number of inhabitants in the year 1745, they did not exceed 4000 in both parishes. Ten years later, they had rather decreased, the return to Dr Webster in 1755 being, from the old parish, 1886 } In all only 3858.  
and from the new, - 1972 }

—But about the year 1760, the town began to increase rapidly, and continued to do so till the American war, which occasioned almost an entire stagnation of its trade. Immediately, however, on the peace in 1783, trade revived, and Greenock is now in a much more flourishing state, than it was at any period previous to that unfortunate contest; containing in all no fewer than 15,000 souls. From the register of the Old Parish of Greenock, is extracted the following list of marriages and births\*, for 10 years preceding January 1791:

	Marriages.	Births.	
		Males 81	Females 82
1781	30	81	75
1782	44	81	75
1783	32	90	74
1784	41	100	84
1785	39	79	78
1786	56	100	97
1787	58	112	98
1788	61	112	122
1789	84	103	112
1790	47	120	112
	<hr/> 492	<hr/> 978	<hr/> 934

Total of births in ten years, 1791.

And from that of the New Parish, from 1782 to 1791, inclusive:

Marriages.

\* No regular account of funerals has been kept in either parish.

	Marriages.	Births.	
		Males	Females
1782	60	138	109
1783	60	123	102
1784	61	112	125
1785	79	137	133
1786	73	118	140
1787	78	130	107
1788	83	140	139
1789	66	142	127
1790	73	146	130
1791	98	149	126
	<u>731</u>	<u>1335</u>	<u>1238</u>

Total of births in these last ten years, 2573.

	Marriages.	Males.	Females.
Hence it appears, that the average in the old parish is,	-	49	98
and in the new parish,	-	73	133
Total of marriages, &c. in both parishes,	1223	2313	2172
Total, births of both sexes, in both parishes,			4485
Majority of males,			141

From an accurate account of the inhabitants, taken in January last, (1792,) it appears, that there are, in the two parishes of Greenock, 3387 families: and in these,

Persons.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 12 years of age,	2475	2297	4772
Above 12 <u>          </u>	<u>4291</u>	<u>5236</u>	<u>9527</u>
In all,	6766	7533	14299 *

The number of the heads of families, as was noted in taking the above account, born in Argyleshire, among whom the prevailing name is Campbell, is 1433; in the shire of Bute 78, and in the northern counties 314; so that there are in the two parishes of Greenock 1825 heads of families, from the Highlands of Scotland.

*Poor.*

\* In this number are not included the people on board coasting vessels, the amount of whom, at a very moderate computation, will make it up 15,000.

*Poor.*—In taking the account of the inhabitants, it was also particularly noted, with much concern, that there are in the two parishes no fewer than 1185 children, whose parents are unable to defray the expence of their education; and that 883 of that number are the children of parents from the counties of Scotland above mentioned. To account for this, it is to be observed, that most of the labourers, boatmen, sailors, &c. in Greenock, are from the Highlands, and that they often settle there with large families, to support which requires their utmost industry and application. The wealthier people in Greenock, and even those in moderate circumstances, are uncommonly generous and liberal; and there are, perhaps, no people in Scotland, whose generosity and liberality have been better tried. Though charity should not *end* at home, it is reason and sound policy that it should *begin* there. In no part of the Highlands or Isles of Scotland, perhaps, would the benevolent intentions of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge be better answered, than in Greenock. The erection of a free school or two, for the education of the children of poor people from the Highlands, would be attended with the happiest effects. That their charity would be applied according to their pious intentions, the Society would have the best security in the disinterested zeal of the wealthier part of the Highland inhabitants, of which they have lately given a very good proof. Nothing, for a number of years past, has been more needed, than a place of public worship, for a vast number of people who do not well understand the English language. By a voluntary subscription, amounting to L. 1500, the wealthier part of the Highland inhabitants have lately erected a large, elegant, and commodious Gaelic chapel, and endowed it with L. 100 *per annum*. They are to elect a minister of the Established Church, who is to preach one half of the Sabbath

bath in Gaelic, and the other in English. The funds for the maintenance of the poor, who are very numerous \*, are the weekly collections at the churches, the Marine Society, and the trades boxes. These being inadequate, and to put a stop to vagrant begging, with which the town was intolerably infested, the inhabitants of both parishes, in 1785, agreed to assess themselves in a sum that might supply the deficiency. The scheme, which is conducted as the law directs, has been continued; and, but for the simplicity of people who still give encouragement to vagrants, would completely answer its important end. The sum raised by assessment from the beginning has not greatly increased. The assessment for 1791 was L. 360. Where there are many separate funds for the maintenance of the poor, it is not to be supposed, that an equal distribution can be made. It is therefore much to be wished, that as many of them as possibly could, were thrown into one, for the benefit of the indigent. The annual amount of charities, in Greenock, is not less, it is believed, than L. 1200 Sterling.

The *Merchants House Society* in Greenock was established in 1787. The subscription money on admission is L. 5, 5 s. and 5 s. annually. No part of the fund is to be expended, till the stock amount to L. 1000, when the interest may be distributed in charities among the decayed members.

*Churches, &c.*—The church and manse of Greenock were not built till the year 1759. The stipend is 100 guineas *per annum*, exclusive of the manse and garden.  
The

\* One cause of this is the senseless profusion, with which many of the common sailors squander their money. One of them who, soon after the commencement of the American war, received L. 1800 of prize-money, spent it all in about two years; and dying, left some young children to be maintained by the parish.

The late minister was the second since the erection of the new parish. Besides the two parish churches, there are in Greenock a Chapel of Ease, built about 20 years ago, the Gaelic chapel, above mentioned, a Burgher and an Anti-burgher meeting-house. In the adjoining village of Crawforddike, the Burghers have another place of worship. The number, however, of those who have entirely separated themselves from the church, is by no means great. It is curious to remark, that about 156 years ago, the churches of Kilmacolm and Innerkip were neighbouring churches. There are now between them 10 \* places of worship, *viz.* three churches and three chapels of the Establishment, and four houses belonging to the Secession; and, where there were scarcely as many hundreds about the beginning of the present century, there are now about 19,000 people.

*Government.*—The town of Greenock, which is governed by a Council of 9 feuers, two of whom are bailies, is a burgh of barony, erected in the year 1757, by Sir John Shaw, who was then superior. The village of *Cartdike*, or Crawforddike, which has a good harbour and quay, older than those of Greenock, is also a burgh of barony. It was erected in 1633, by King Charles II.

*Road and Harbour.*—Of the road and harbour of Greenock many things might be said, but a few must suffice. By a sand bank of considerable breadth, stretching from Dunbarton to a little below the town, the road is made narrow, and the navigation to Port-Glasgow rendered sometimes tedious and difficult. At low ebbs, (except

two

\* The chapel at Gourrock might have been added.

two slanting gaps \* through it), it is dry, and abounds with shell fish of various kinds. In high gales of N. E. wind, it is of no small service to the road and harbour of Greenock. At the bottom, or *tail* (as it is usually called) of this bank, and which, as a *loofing* place, experienced mariners prefer to any other harbour in the frith, there is, at all times, sufficient depth of water, abundance of room, and good anchoring ground for hundreds of ships, of any burden hitherto built. Directly opposite to the tail of the bank, where the channel is narrowest, tradition says, there was anciently a fort or castle. On the spot, which still retains the name of *The Forth*, or *Fort*, a battery was raised during the war before last, on occasion of the alarm given the west coast of Scotland, by the small squadron, commanded by the just, the humane and the gallant Frenchman, M. THUROT; and, on a similar alarm, by some privateers in the beginning of the American war, a still more formidable one. It mounted twelve 24 pounders, and was flanked by several brass pieces, 12 and 9 pounders, *en barbette*, on a private quay jutting into the channel; all under the direction of a party of the artillery. People, however, who know the winds necessary to bring vessels into the port, and to carry them out to sea, will probably be of opinion, that all this labour and expence might have been spared. None but a madman would think of attempting a port, from which his escape would be almost impossible.

As to the harbour, properly so called, the inhabitants of Greenock, in the year 1700, petitioned the Scotch Parliament for a fund to build it; which petition, for what reason does not appear, the Parliament absolutely refused. Some time after, they entered into a contract with their superior,

\* By shutting up these, some people have been of opinion, that the channel might be made both deeper and broader.



superior, Sir John Shaw, and for the above purpose, a voluntary assessment of 1 s. 4 d. Sterling, was laid on each sack of malt brewed into ale within the limits of the town. In consequence of this, the harbour was begun in 1707. Within two circular quays, (a mid quay or tongue intervening, consisting of above 2000 feet of stone), are inclosed more than ten acres. The expence was upwards of 100,000 merks. Alarmed by the greatness of the debt incurred, on Sir John Shaw's agreeing to take it upon him, they resigned to him the harbour and assessment above mentioned. After the Union, however, the trade of the port increased so rapidly, that, in the year 1740, the whole debt was extinguished, and there remained a surplus, the foundation of the present town's funds, of 27,000 merks\*.

The fund, arising from the harbour, in 1783, was L. 111 : 4 : 8; in 1792, L. 812, 9 s. The other funds of the town are the rents of warehouses and markets, the surplus of seat rents in the New Church, after paying the minister's stipend; and a water tax of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the rents of houses above 40 s. The whole funds of the town last year, all expences being defrayed, were L. 1100 Sterling.

*Dry*

\* It may seem strange, at this time, that the above tax on malt should have produced a fund for executing a work of such magnitude and expence; but surprize ceases, when it is considered, that at that time, and a good while after, ale was the only drink of the labouring people. Devoutly is it wished, by those who painfully observe the pernicious effects of spirituous liquors, on the constitutions and morals of the people, that it had still continued to be so. The quantity of these not very slow poisons, annually consumed in Greenock, is almost incredible. For retailing them in the year 1792, the number of licenses granted in Greenock only, exclusive of the village of Cartdike, is 247.

*Dry Dock, &c.*—The proprietors of the harbour in 1783 began to build a dry dock, which was finished several years ago, and is reckoned a very complete piece of workmanship. This dock, however, from the yearly increase of shipping, being inadequate to the demand, more of the same kind have been projected. An addition to the harbour, on an extensive plan, including great part of the bay of Cartdike, was long thought of. The west part of it is almost finished. When the plan is completed, which it may be in the course of a few years, the harbour of Greenock, considering the easy navigation of the Clyde, will be one of the first in Great Britain.

*Trade.*—To this short account of its harbour, may be subjoined a few notes respecting the trade of Greenock\*. Before the Union, the merchants of the town had some trade to the Baltic for timber, in exchange for herrings; and to France, Spain and other parts of Europe. In the year 1714 a custom-house was established at Greenock, as a member of Port-Glasgow. From the Union to the beginning of the American war, a very great trade was carried on from Greenock, principally by the Glasgow merchants, who were owners of almost all the ships sailing from that port. At present, the merchants of Greenock are the principal ship-holders, and carry on the greatest part of the trade.

The following extract from the Custom-house books, gives a comparative view of the state of the tonnage of the shipping from that port, in the year 1784, the first year

Vol. V.

4 D

after

\* Greenock has one banking Company, and a branch of one from Paisley.

after peace was concluded with America, and in the year 1791.

Entered at the port of Greenock.	Vessels.	Tons.	Total Tons.
In 1784, Inward British,	231	1531	
— Foreign,	7	1095	2626
Outward British,	196	14911	
— Foreign,	2	478	15389
In 1791, Inward British,	406	39626	
— Foreign,	21	3778	43404
Outward British,	301	31721	
— Foreign,	14	2390	34111
Coasters inward,	593	15434	
— Outward,	627	16270	31704

*Imports and Exports.*—From the West Indies the Greenock merchants import rum, sugar, cotton, mahogany, &c. From America, rice, naval stores, pot-ash, oil, timber, &c. and from France, Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, wines, fruit, &c. The trade to the Baltic for timber and naval stores is very considerable. The coasting trade is carried on to all the ports of Ireland, and of the west of England, for grain, &c. and the Canal between the Forth and the Clyde has opened an extensive trade to the east coast of Scotland, and to London.—From Greenock are exported herrings, coals, and all sorts of British manufactures. From that port, there are, by the Canal, 44 packets, to Leith, Dundee, London, to all parts of the North Highlands and Isles, as far as Orkney; and packets to Liverpool, fine floops of 80 tons and upwards, well fitted up for the accommodation of passengers.

From the 5th of January 1790, to the 5th of the same month 1791, were imported the following quantities of the general articles annexed :

Grain,	87,395 quarters.
Sugars,	81,074 cwt.

Cotton,

Cotton,	1,757,504 lb. wt.
Rum,	221,649 gallons.
Wines,	744 tuns.

*Fisheries.*—As to fisheries, (in which the inhabitants of Greenock, justly considering them as a principal source of their wealth, have been much interested,) it may be proper to mention, that in the reign of Charles II. and under the patronage of the Duke of York, a society of *Herring Fishers* was established on the Clyde, with particular privileges. At the east end of the town of Greenock, in 1676, they inclosed a large piece of ground, which they called the *Royal Close*, (the name which it still retains,) for the purpose of curing herrings. The Company was afterwards dissolved, and the buildings of the Close, which belong to the city of Glasgow, have been long occupied as storehouses for tobacco.

The herring fishery, however, was continued by individuals, and not without success, in boats on the river and neighbouring lochs, and in larger vessels to the Isles. The Society of the *Free British Fishery*, being established by act of Parliament, in the year 1750, they granted a bounty to herring fishers, of 30 s. *per* ton, which, in 1757, they extended to 50 s.; and, in 1771, with some other alterations, reduced to 30 s. On the bounty last year, (1791,) were cleared at the Custom-house, Greenock, and outports, 129 busses, on board 88 of which were 938 men. Besides large quantities of herrings, caught in the river and neighbouring lochs, which were sold for immediate consumption, there were entered, from the 5th of January 1791 to the 5th of January 1792,

	Bar. Her.
At the port of Greenock,	45054
At Port-Glasgow,	8434 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total bartels of herrings, 53488 $\frac{1}{2}$

In

In the neighbouring bays and lochs, excellent *salmon* are caught in their season, but none for exportation. Cod, haddocks and whittings, are got in great plenty from the rock of Ailfa upward, with which, besides Greenock and Port-Glasgow, are supplied Glasgow, Paisley, and the adjacent country.

The *Whale Fishery* from Clyde has been by no means successful. It was first attempted in the year 1752, when some adventurers sent several ships to Greenland; but not finding their account in it, they soon gave it up. This trade was again revived in 1786, at which time five large ships, three from Greenock and two from Port-Glasgow, well equipped, and commanded by men of experience in the business, sailed for Greenland. The Greenock merchants soon tired of this trade, which, however, is still carried on by the people of Port-Glasgow. Notwithstanding the high bounty paid by Government, it is said to be but a poor concern.

The *Newfoundland* and *Nova Scotia* fisheries are carried on to a very considerable extent, by some of the Greenock merchants.

*Manufactures.*—As to manufactures, it is to be observed, that sea port towns are by no means favourable to them. The boys generally prefer, (which, indeed, is fortunate,) a seafaring to a sedentary way of life. In the year 1725, a ropework, and some time afterwards, a duck manufacture were established. There are now several of them on the river, where large quantities of cordage and sailcloth are made, for home consumption and for exportation. In Greenock there are three soap and candle works, one saddle and shoe manufactory, and two sugar-houses, all carried on for exportation to a great extent.

*Ship-Building.*—With respect to ship-building, it may not be improper to mention, that formerly all the large vessels belonging to Clyde were built in America; but since the Americans established their independence, ship-building has gone on briskly in the ports of Clyde, and in other ports all over Britain. The largest merchant vessel, ever built in Scotland, was launched at Greenock about a year ago. She belongs to a company in the town, who have a contract with Government, for supplying the royal navy with masts from Nova Scotia, of which she has already delivered at one of the King's yards 1100 tons.

*Climate.*—The town of Greenock, though it certainly occupies too small a space for the number of its inhabitants, though one of its two principal streets, and a number of the lanes between them are very narrow, and though, from its vicinity to mountains, it is subject to frequent rains \*, is not, in the opinion of the medical gentlemen in it, unhealthy. Fevers of the infectious kind, and the small-pox, among the lower sort of people, who will not be persuaded to avail themselves of inoculation, are sometimes fatal †.

*Nuisances.*—The streets, which in winter, of late years, have been pretty well lighted with lamps, are kept tolerably clean. It must surprize a stranger, however, to observe, that in a sea-port, where, at a medium, the tide flows 9 or

10

\* From an accurate account of the weather, however, kept for three years successively, by the Professor of Natural Philosophy at Glasgow, and a gentleman in Greenock, the balance appeared considerably against Glasgow.

† Blowy weather from the South and S. W. with showers, is reckoned in Greenock the healthiest.

10 feet perpendicular, meeting several rivulets, the slaughter-house should send, chiefly by means of pumped water, all its blood and filth through the greatest breadth of the town. This shocking nuisance the Magistrates and principal people of Greenock have repeatedly attempted to remove; but all their endeavours have been hitherto thwarted.—The mention of one nuisance introduces another, which, as it gives pain to inhabitants and strangers of humane feelings, ought, if possible, to be immediately removed. The earnings of the carmen, who ply the quays, are very considerable. The sober among them grow rich; the dissipated drink whisky, neglect their families, and starve their horses. \* Deprived, by intoxication, of the little reason they had, they deem it very easy for something that had *once* been a horse,—with nothing on its bones but skin, (and, from horrid usage, not the whole of that),—to drag, on a low-wheeled ponderous car, to any store-house in Greenock, 15 cwts. of sugar or tobacco. When disappointed—the rest may be easily imagined \*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—About 15 years ago there was only one stage-coach from Greenock to Glasgow; now there are, every lawful day, four; with one to Irvine, and in winter one between Greenock and Port Glasgow; besides post-chaises, of which there are in the place, eight.—On the quays of Greenock, as hold-fasts for the ships, and in other parts of the town, may be seen a number of iron guns, of different sizes, which were many years ago recovered by a London diver, from the wreck of one of the ships of the unfortunate Spanish Armada, which sunk off the old castle

\* Though it may not be practicable to restrain *great men* from exercising their cruelties on the brute creation, surely means might be devised to check the barbarities of the inferior ranks.

castle of *Pencrofts*, or *Portingcrofts*, in the parish of West Kilbride. The largest of them, of which the caliber is 6 inches, (so little curiosity have many people), still lies neglected on the beach, beside the very romantic castle.—A respectable gentleman in the town, a relation of the celebrated Principal CARSTAIRS, has in his possession the identical *thumbikins*, with which the Principal was severely tortured\*.—In 1783, a number of gentlemen in Greenock, to save themselves the expence of purchasing many books, and to avert the fatal effects which are sometimes occasioned by circulating libraries, instituted a subscription library; which now consists of more than 200 volumes, for the most part very well selected.

*Character.*—The superior ranks of people in Greenock are very civil and well bred; the people in general kind and hospitable to strangers. To this virtue, besides other inducements, many of them have the powerful motive suggested by the Jewish Legislator, “They know the heart of strangers, having been strangers themselves †.” One may at times walk from one end of the town to the other, passing many people, and many people passing him, without hearing a word of any language but Gaelic. Of this, their native  
tongue

\* The story of the thumbikins is, that Carstairs asked, and obtained them in a present from his tormentors.—‘I have heard, Principal’, said King William to him, the first time he waited on his Majesty, ‘that you were tortured with something they call *thumbikins*; Pray what sort of instrument of torture is it?’ ‘I will shew it you,’ replied Carstairs, ‘the next time I have the honour to wait on your Majesty.’ The Principal was as good as his word.—‘I must try them,’ said the King;—‘I must put in my thumbs here—now, Principal, turn the screw.—O not so gently—another turn—another—Stop! stop! no more—another turn, I’m afraid, would make me confess any thing.’

† Exodus xxiii. 9.



tongue, which is said to be copious and highly expressive, the Highlanders are amazingly fond. They seem all to be orators. Like the French and some other nations, they accompany the artificial, with what has been termed *natural language*, significant looks, motions of the hands, and various gesticulations of the body †—It is not uncommon with the poorest people from the Highlands to boast of their descent from some great family or other; and it is pleasant to observe, that a reflection, which would be painful to others in their circumstances, affords no small consolation to them: “They are not so wealthy as their neighbours, but “to compensate and more than compensate this, they are of “very honourable extraction.”—The town of Greenock, considering the great number of its inhabitants, and of strangers, chiefly seafaring people, in succession from different parts of the world, has been spoke of as remarkably quiet and regular. Very seldom, even in the night-time, is there any disturbance or rioting in the streets; and excepting by a few, a decent respect is paid to the Sabbath.

† Men of education among them, and of undoubted veracity, when consulted on the controversy about the authenticity of *Ossian's* Poems, have positively affirmed, that, in their younger days, they have heard recited, in the original, the greater part of the compositions of that sublime bard.

APPENDIX TO NUMBER XXXVII.

---

A C C O U N T

OF THE

FORTH AND CLYDE NAVIGATION.

THE advantages arising to commerce from artificial navigations, are now so generally acknowledged, and their utility so well known, that, wherever they are practicable, the greatest encouragement has been given to undertakings of this kind.

Scotland is almost divided into two parts by the rivers Forth and Clyde; the Forth falling into the East sea below Edinburgh, and the Clyde into the Atlantic ocean below Glasgow. These two rivers, thus falling in opposite directions, into the two seas which surround the island, early suggested the idea of forming a communication across the kingdom, by cutting the narrow neck of land between them, and thereby saving the long and dangerous naviga-

tion by the Land's End, or the Pentland Frith. A navigable canal betwixt the Forth and Clyde, was first proposed by Charles II. for small ships of war; but the expence appearing too great for the finances of the kingdom at that period, the design was laid aside. It was again revived in 1723, when a survey was taken by a Mr Gordon; but nothing was done in consequence of it, until the year 1762, when the then Lord NAPIER, at his own expence, employed Mr Robert Mackell to make a survey and estimate of a Canal, which should leave the river Clyde at *Yocker Burn*, about five miles below Glasgow, and join the Forth within about two miles from the mouth of the river *Carron*. Induced by Mr Mackell's favourable report, the Board of Trustees, for the encouragement of fisheries and manufactures in Scotland, employed the late Mr Smeaton to make another survey and estimate for a canal, 5 feet deep, which was to cost L. 80,000; an expenditure, it was feared, too great for the trade which was likely to pass through it.

In 1766, a number of respectable merchants in Glasgow, seeing there was little probability of the scheme being taken up by the public, formed the design of making a small canal, 4 feet deep, and 24 feet wide, estimated at L. 30,000; and a subscription for this purpose was soon filled up. But when the bill was brought into Parliament, it was opposed on several accounts, the principal of which were, the smallness of the scale, and the little utility which the country in general would derive, from any vessels which it could possibly admit; and also that, if the proprietors of this canal should once obtain a right to the water, it would for ever preclude the possibility of making one of larger dimensions. The bill being thus lost in the House of Commons, a number of noblemen and gentlemen began a subscription at London, for uniting the two seas by a canal *seven* feet deep; and the next year they obtained the sanction of Parliament,

liament, by the name of *the Company of Proprietors of the Forth and Clyde Navigation.*

By the act, they were likewise empowered to make a collateral branch to the city of Glasgow, for the better accommodation of the trade there. Their joint stock was declared to consist of 1500 shares of L. 100 each, making in all the sum of L. 150,000, with liberty to borrow L. 50,000 more; and the subscribers for *five* shares were entitled to vote by themselves or proxies, and to be elected managers of the Company. On the 10th of July 1768, under the direction of Mr Smeaton, the Company began to break ground, and, after having met with many and almost unfurmountable difficulties, the Canal was rendered navigable on the 10th of July 1775, as far as *Stockingfield*, which is the point where the side branch to Glasgow goes off. In November 1777, the side cut was brought forward to *Hamilton Hill*, where a large basin was made for the reception of vessels, and the proprietors of the neighbouring grounds erected granaries and other buildings.

At this time, the expence of the navigation had far exceeded the original estimate. The whole of the money subscribed by the proprietors, as well as the toll-dues hitherto received, and a subsequent loan was expended, while the tonnage-dues did not much exceed L. 4000 annually. As there was therefore little probability, that the Canal would ever be carried forward to join the Clyde, the shares in the Company's stock were frequently sold L. 50 *per cent.* under *par*.

The Canal remained in this situation until the year 1784, when the Company obtained an aid from Government of L. 50,000, from the annexed forfeited estates in Scotland. Upon this aid, Government was to draw proportional dividends with the proprietors; but the original subscribers were allowed to add the interest on their advances. Ha-

ving

ving received this assistance, the Committee of Management again began with great spirit in July 1786, to carry the Canal westward from Stockingfield towards the river Clyde, under the direction of Mr Robert Whitworth. And although the most arduous and difficult part of the undertaking was still to execute, yet, owing to his great abilities and unremitting attention, on the 28th of July 1790, the navigation was opened from sea to sea. The Committee of Management, accompanied by the Magistrates of Glasgow, were the first voyagers on this navigation. On the arrival of the vessel at *Bowling Bay*, after descending the last lock into the Clyde, the ceremony, of JOINING *the EASTERN and WESTERN SEAS* together, was performed by the chairman of the Committee, with the assistance of the chief engineer Mr Whitworth, by the symbol of launching a hoghead of the water of the FORTH into the CLYDE, amidst the acclamations of a vast number of spectators, who expressed the greatest satisfaction on the completion of a work which promised so many advantages, not only to that part of the country in particular, but to the kingdom at large.

The basin at Hamilton Hill, having been found inadequate for the reception of the great number of vessels which navigated the Canal, the Company purchased eight acres of ground within half a mile of Glasgow, where they have made *one* on a much larger scale, and likewise *another* for timber and rafts of wood. Here they have built a commodious granary, as well as many other buildings, and are selling off the ground for a village, which they have named *Port Dundas*. When the plan of this village is complete, it will exhibit one of the most extraordinary scenes to be seen, perhaps, in any country. It will stand on the side of a steep hill; when viewed from  
the

the plain below, the houses and buildings will appear intermixed with trees, masts, and sails, while no river or water is to be seen. From Port Dundas, the Company have formed a junction with a canal, which runs 12 miles to the east, to the collieries in the parishes of Monkland, and which bids fair in time to bring a considerable addition to their revenue. This great undertaking, which was 22 years in finishing, was one of the most arduous to execute in the kingdom. In its course, it passes over rocks, precipices, and quicksands; in some places it runs through a deep moor, and in others, it is banked 20 feet high. The Canal, in its course, crosses many rivulets and roads, as well as two considerable rivers, the *Luggie* and the *Kelvin*. The *bridge* over the latter consists of 4 arches of excellent mason work, which carry the Canal over a valley 400 feet long, and 65 feet deep; and, considering the length, the width, and the weight of water it has to sustain, may be justly reckoned, the most stupendous of its kind, in the world. This great inland navigation is supplied with water by seven reservoirs, covering 409 acres of ground, and containing 12,679 lock-fulls of water; and when the increase of the trade shall require, the Company have it in their power to add two other reservoirs, capable of containing 15,958 lock-fulls more.

The affairs of this Company were originally under the direction of two general meetings, one held at London, and the other at Edinburgh; each of which met quarterly, and the first of these chose a Committee of Management annually. The two general meetings having interfered with each other, and their orders to the Committee of Management being sometimes contradictory, an act of Parliament was passed, in the year 1787, forming a new constitution; whereby the direction of the Company was placed in a

Governor

Governor and Council in London, and a Committee of Management at Glasgow; who meet monthly, or oftener as occasion may require. Both of these are chosen by a general meeting at London, in the month of March yearly.

At the first of January 1791, the Company had expended in this undertaking above L. 330,000; the aqueduct bridge over the Kelvin alone having cost L. 8509.

Since the year 1777, the tonnage and wharfage dues have been greatly on the increase, but more particularly so, since the junction of the two seas in July 1790; as the communication between Ireland and the east sea is thereby shortened above 800 miles. The gross revenues this year (1792) are expected to exceed L. 14,000; in consequence of which, the original shares in the Company's stock are now selling 25 *per cent.* above *par.*

---

SUMMARY VIEW OF THE FORTH AND CLYDE  
NAVIGATION.

Extreme length of the navigation, from lock No. 1. on the river Forth, to lock No. 39. on the river Clyde, - - - - -	Miles.    35
Extreme length of the collateral Cut to Glas- gow, - - - - -	2½
	<hr/> 37½
From Port Dundas to the Monkland basin, -	1
	<hr/> 38½

*of the Forth and Clyde Navigation.* 591

	Feet.
Summit of the head level, - - -	156
Medium width of the surface of the canal, - -	56
—— — of the bottom, - - -	27
Depth throughout the whole, - - -	8
Number of locks, on the E. 20; on the W. 19; in all, - - -	38
Length of the locks between the gates, - -	74
Width between the walls, - - -	20
Fall of each of the locks, - - -	8

Vessels of 19 feet beam, 68 feet keel, and drawing nearly 8 feet water, can pass along the navigation, the banks having been raised a foot since the year 1787. The canal in its course passes over 10 large aqueduct bridges, and 33 smaller ones, or tunnels: and there are 33 draw-bridges over the navigation.

The tonnage dues are *two pence per ton* the mile, with exceptions in favour of lime, manure, and sundry other articles.

The tonnage dues from sea to sea are, -	L. 0 5 10
From Grange-mouth to Glasgow, -	0 4 10
From Bowling-bay to Glasgow, - - -	0 2 0

The most considerable part of the revenue arises from grain and timber.

Grain carried along the canal, from the 1st of January 1791, to the 1st of January 1792, -	236,144 bolls.
Timber, during the same period, -	17,303 tons.
Flour, — — — — —, -	6,142 —

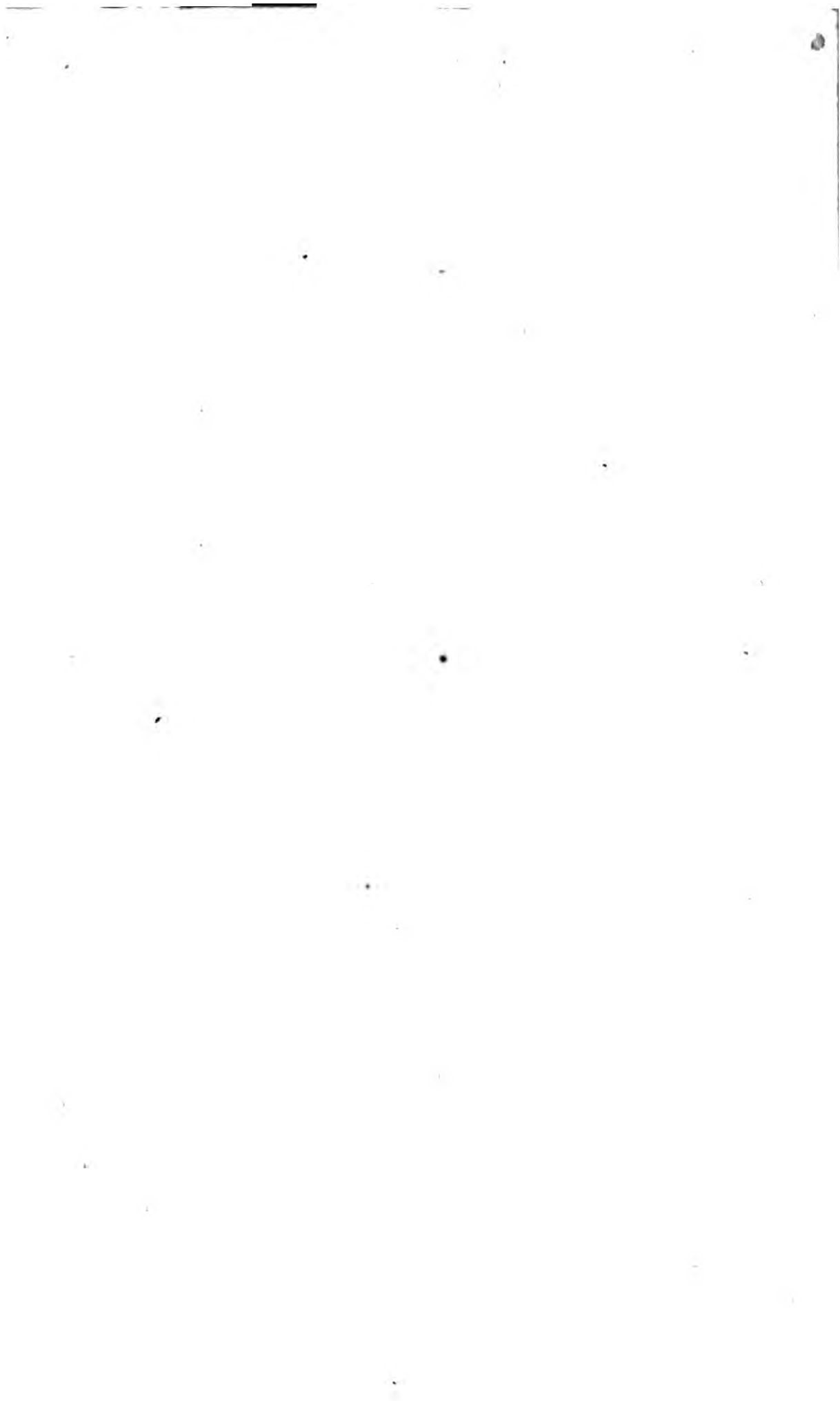
END OF VOLUME V.

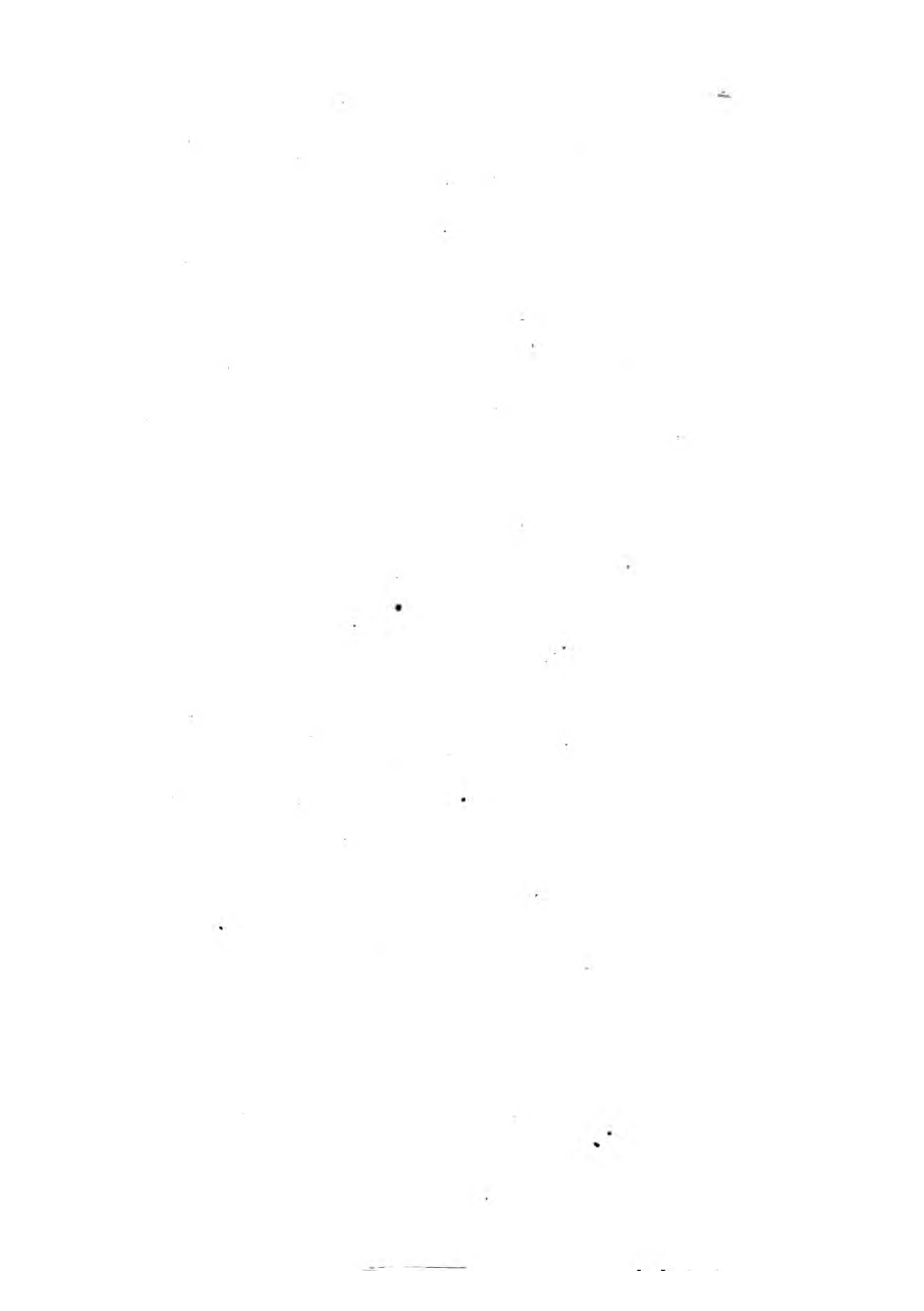














W 21-2 23

